THE GATEWAY

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PETE YEE

GET DOWN ON IT Pandas forward Miranda Miller drops down to get the shot off against UBC goalie Melinda Choy in a 4-0 win on Saturday. Details on page 14.

Business focus fixed for SSHRC

SCOTT FENWICK
News Staff

A change in the federal government's policy toward research funding has prompted accusations from university researchers that academic freedom in Canada is being compromised.

The controversy stems from the wording of the January federal budget concerning the government's treatment of its arm's-length funding towards research-granting councils.

A provision in the budget document calls for giving $17.5 million in scholarships to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC).

However, the budget document also stated that "Scholarships granted by [SSHRC] will be focused on business-related degrees."

Penni Stewart, president of the Canadian Association of University Teachers, in an open letter to Prime Minister Stephen Harper on the association's website, called on the government to stop trying to influence research.

PLEASE SEE SSHRC • PAGE 4

President-elect Kory Mathewson shares plans for next year's SU exec

JONATHAN TAVES
News Staff

When Kory Mathewson first arrived at the University of Alberta to begin work on his engineering degree, it didn't take him long to get involved beyond the lectures and calculations.

He entered the world of student government immediately, getting elected as first-year president of the Engineering Students' Society.

"I became involved through connecting with students, so it started on a really low level," he says.

Now in his fourth year, that early interest has propelled him to the top spot of the Students' Union executive, carrying off the title of president-elect when the polls closed last Thursday.

"I was nervous and excited. I was standing there with my girlfriend. My campaign manager was holding me," Mathewson recalls of his victory.

"As soon as they said it, I just thought about all the wonderful people that had helped me in the past two months to make it happen."

The term for the new executive begins 1 May, and Mathewson is looking forward to tackling the concerns he addressed during his run.

"I was surprised at how many student issues came up during the campaign; it's a great time for students to have their opinions heard," he says. "Communication [is a big issue]. People didn't know what the Students' Union was doing. No one had any idea of the scale of some of our projects."

An idea Mathewson has to engage students is an undergraduate survey, which was a prominent part of his campaign.

> **"I became involved through connecting with students, so it started on a really low level."**
>
> **KORY MATHEWSON**
> SU PRESIDENT-ELECT

"I just want to garner feedback from all the corners of campus to get an idea of what the undergraduate student body is thinking, what they're feeling about certain issues," he details.

However, getting his message out wasn't as easy as he first anticipated, mostly due to certain regulations restricting Internet campaigning.

"I'm a total 'newb' to campaigning, so I went in with these lofty ideas about running a social networking campaign, a viral media campaign," he explains. "I'm an active blogger; I had to stop blogging. I had to stop Twittering. So a lot of campaigning has to be done over phone or email, like a lot of communication with volunteers, which is a little bit ineffective."

The campaign still achieved its publicity goals, as Mathewson admits, he was recognized more often in the days leading up to the election.

"A lot of people would be like 'Hey, you're Kory!' Then it was interesting as the week went on, I'd get more and more double takes," he laughs. "[It was fun] walking around campus and seeing posters of myself everywhere."

Though he's excited about his upcoming term, he's almost equally ecstatic with the other choices voters made to round out the executive.

"Bev [Eastham] has done some great work. I'm excited to work with Nick [Dehod]. Zach [Fentiman] seems like a really great guy and a lot of his ideas sort of bounced off mine. And Leah [Trueblood]'s so funny; I can't wait to work with her," he said.

"I'm happy that the SU now has a few people with outside perspectives to bring some creativity and imagination into problem solving in the office."

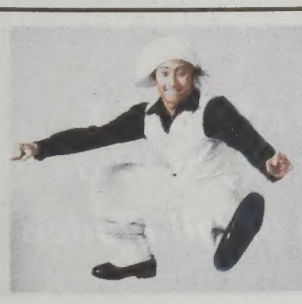


PETE YEE

NEXT IN LINE Kory Mathewson will officially begin his term in office on 1 May.

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Electric Boogaloo

Ben Dextraze gets on the down-rock while exploring the history of the b-boy movement

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Justice is coming

Was *Watchmen* an epic masterpiece or a miserable failure? Five writers split the vote in our group review

A&E, PAGE 10-11

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colophon

The *Gateway* is created using Macintosh computers, HP Scanjet flatbed scanners, and a Nikon Super Cool Scan optical film scanner. Adobe InDesign is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images, while Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files which are burned directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of FENICE, **Joanna**, **Kepler** and **Whitney**. The *Manitoban* is the *Gateway*'s sister paper, and we love her dearly, though "not in that way." The *Gateway*'s trains of choice are the little engine that could and the Oriental Express.

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CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Mike Otto

BLACKBERRY BACKPACK BANDIT

At 11am on 3 March, a student reported that her backpack was stolen from track level in the Butterdome. She tried calling her Blackberry—which was in the backpack at the time—and ended up texting back and forth with the thief. The crook told her where he dumped her bag and Campus Security recovered it, minus all of its valuables. Edmonton Police are investigating.

IN THE NAME OF SELF DEFENSE

On 3 March, a student reported that she had been stalked and assaulted by an unknown male. The incident began when she was approached in Cameron Library on 2 March. The suspect approached the student and asked for help finding a book; she politely brushed him off and went back to studying.

The next day, the same man from the library sat next to her in one of her classes in the Tory Lecture Theatre and asked her for personal information. She left the class and went to a nearby washroom; this didn't deter the suspect, who entered the washroom and assaulted her. She escaped and reported the incident to Campus Security. EPS are investigating.

LETTING GO IS THE HARDEST THING TO DO

On 3 March, a female student reported to CSS that over the past month she has been stalked and harassed by her ex-boyfriend. The male in question repeatedly followed her to off campus locations, and in one case threatened her with a knife. He has also been accused of threatening to kill some of her male friends.

The EPS are now investigating and the male has been trespassed from certain areas of campus.

TACTICAL ON THE TRANSIT

At 11:30am on 5 March, Campus Security responded to a call for assistance from Edmonton Transit Security. A transit inspector was assaulted after waking a male found sleeping on a bus. The male was detained by 5-0, and the Edmonton Police Tactical Unit arrived on scene to arrest the groggy suspect. He is now facing assault charges.

THAT'S NOT FOR YOU

At 9pm on 5 March, CSS received reports of a homeless man crashing the deli table at a private function in the Timms Centre. He was repeatedly told by the event organizers to leave but shoved them away and helped himself. By the time 5-0 arrived he was had left the reception.

EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT SMOKING AIN'T ALLOWED IN SCHOOL

At 10pm on 6 March, a HUB resident reported some people smoking marijuana in a stairwell. Campus Security has previously dealt with this group, and once again bluntly told them to get off campus.

THROW THE EMPTIES NEXT TIME

At midnight on 7 March, officers arrived on the scene of an out of control party in Lister. Attempts to break up the party resulted in a staff member being hit with a full can of beer. 5-0 gave three non-students the boot, but two of them returned. They were arrested for trespassing and were taken to a hostel on Whyte Avenue.

Turnout stays low in spite of introduction of online voting

JENNIFER HUYGEN
Senior News Editor

Despite the first-time use of online voting for a Students' Union executive election, voter turnout remained weak when the results were calculated after last week's vote.

In total, 5703 ballots were cast from 4–5 March to elect the new SU executive for the 2009/10 academic year, a total of 20.4 per cent of the eligible voting population on campus.

The recent numbers marked an increase from last year's record low turnout where 4075 votes were cast. According to Chief Returning Officer Patrick Wisheu, this slight increase comes despite an "unexciting" election marked by two uncontested positions.

"I guess [the numbers] were right around where I expected them to be. It was a significant increase over last year. This was a less exciting election than last year as well, so there wasn't as much of a pull," Wisheu said.

He attributes the increase to the introduction of online voting and remains optimistic about the potential of electronic balloting.

"I think we were able to get a lot of votes because of the ability to send out a campus-wide email, and then in that email there was a direct link to information about the candidates, information about the referendum, and also the actual voting system," he said.

"Now that the system itself is in place, there will be time for the elections office in the future to take on a more aggressive marketing campaign."

The Alberta Public Interest Research Group (APIRG) Board of Directors election was held simultaneously with the SU executive election, yet turnout proved even lower. Over the two-day voting period, only 698 students or 2.5 per cent of undergraduates filled out the additional ballot online.

"With APIRG, I think it's sort of the same old problem for us, [which] is that people just don't know who we are," said APIRG CRO Rhiannon Edwards.

APIRG will be soliciting volunteers over the summer to fill the remaining four positions left vacant on their Board of Directors.

CANADIAN STUDENTS VOTE

Just as with the U of A, universities across Canada encouraged their students to vote this past year. Looking over the numbers, it appears as though the U of A is sitting at a middle to above-average voter turnout.

- University of Calgary: 13.5 per cent
- Ryerson University: 14 per cent
- University of British Columbia: 14.4 per cent
- University of Ottawa: 27.2 per cent
- University of Western Ontario: 37.9 per cent
- St. Francis Xavier : 60.4 per cent

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by Sam Brooks

As you may be aware, Barbie celebrated her 50th birthday yesterday.

What part of your childhood do you miss the most?



Jordan Ramsey
Engineering III

Making fairy houses with my best friend.



Barret McNally
Science II

Playing with the hose and not getting made fun of. [*Care to elaborate on that?*] If you spray people like your parents with the hose these days, they kinda look at you like you're a douchebag. But back then it was, "Awww, pretty cute."



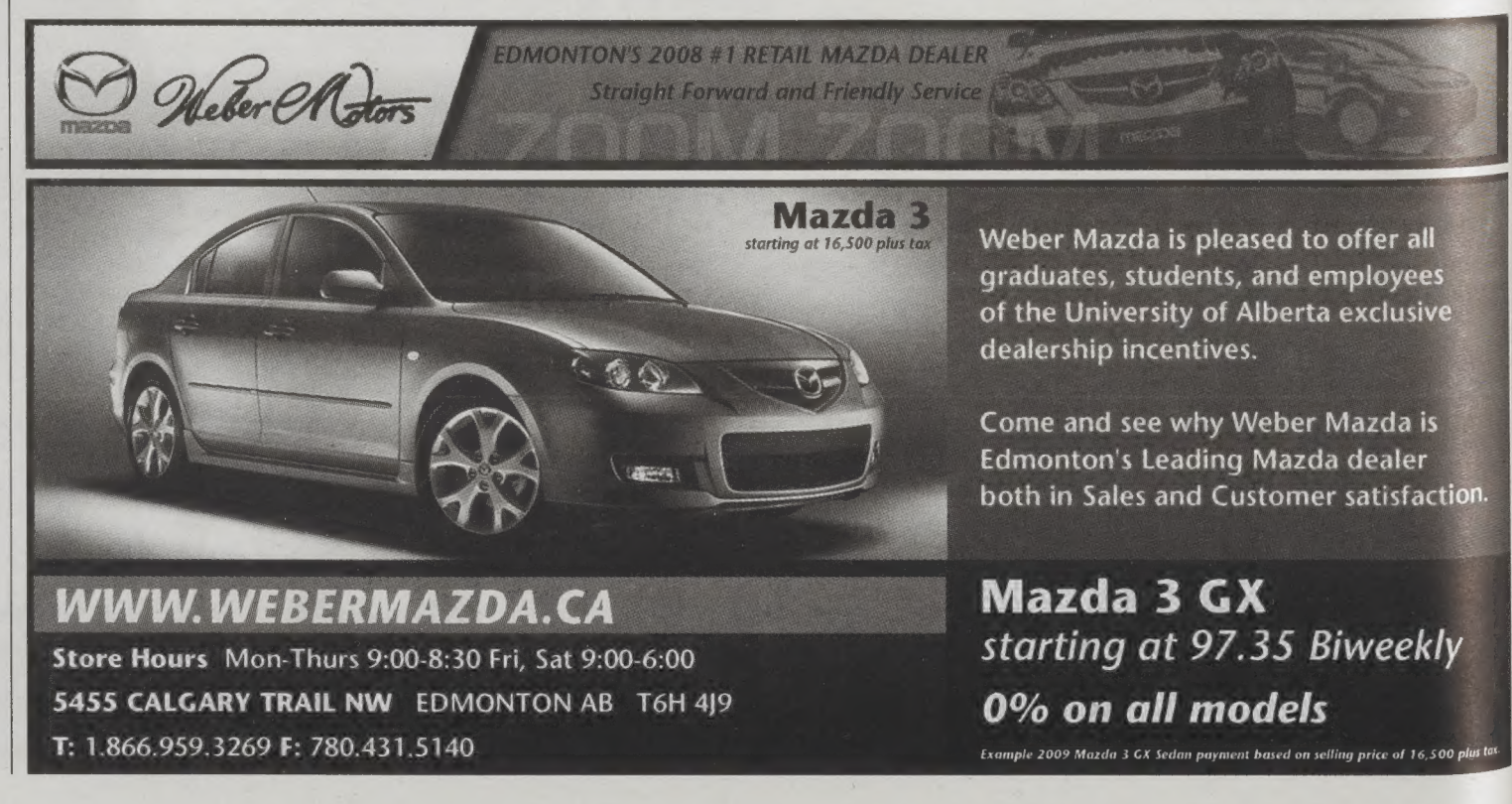
Tiffany Cheung
Science II

Wanting to go to Disneyland and not being made fun of.



Claire Dubreuil
ALES IV

I miss playing Lego with my brother [...] I work at a kids' centre now, so I definitely love Lego more than anything else.





REBECCA PINTO

WINDS OF CHANGE The DRP would like to see provincial opposition parties of the Tories work together to implement change.

Democratic Renewal Project aims to change political situation in AB

JONATHAN TAVES
News Staff

A new initiative has been started to combat what organizers see as a complacent attitude shared by many Albertans towards provincial politics.

The Democratic Renewal Project (DRP) launched its website at the beginning of February as part of its campaign to create a stronger alternative to the Progressive Conservative government that has been in power in Alberta for the past 38 years.

"All sorts of people don't bother to vote because it's become the common wisdom in the province that the government can't be defeated," said Dr Alvin Finkel, co-chair of the DRP and history professor at Athabasca University.

"The Tories have successfully created an illusion that they are Alberta," Finkel said. "So even though most people in the province don't like [the Tories], they don't bother to lift a finger to defeat them because they think everyone else is supporting them."

The DRP supports the idea of proportional representation, but recognizes a different government must be in power before such changes could take place.

"When talking about political reform, you can't ask the people who are benefiting from the old system to be the ones to change it," Finkel said.

One alternative that the group suggests is an announced coalition of Alberta's opposition parties. During an election, the ridings could be divided so that Liberals and New Democrat candidates don't run against each other. This would put campaign resources to more effective use, Finkel explained.

"We don't want the parties to merge, but until we get [proportional representation], the other parties have to work together, or else all we're doing is electing the Tories," he said.

Cooperation may be difficult to achieve, as the oppositional parties have their own differences.

> **"The Tories have successfully created an illusion that they are Alberta. So even though most people in the province don't like [the Tories], they don't bother to lift a finger to defeat them."**
>
> **DR ALVIN FINKEL**
> CO-CHAIR OF THE DRP

"There's this myth that we have only in Alberta, that there's no difference between the NDP and the Liberals. The reason that's the case is, of course, the Tories have been in power for so long," said Rachel Notley, MLA for Edmonton-Strathcona and one of two NDP MLA's in the current legislature.

Notley believes a more effective strategy is the hard work it takes to convince voters that alternatives already exist.

"[Instead of a coalition], the focus has to be on a less sexy, more pragmatic, more boring, but ultimately more successful model of grassroots organizing," she said.

The real issues that are affecting the province now should be cause for more citizen involvement, explained former Students' Union president Michael Janz, who has familiarized himself with the project.

"Every Albertan on this campus, every new Albertan, every student, anybody who plans on working here over the next few years, needs to start talking about this," he said.

"Democracy in Alberta stinks," Janz continued. "I don't think the low voter turnout is indicative of people's satisfaction with the way things are. I think it's indicative of a disconnect with the traditional party system."

Notley argues that interest groups, such as the DRP, have to accept the confines of that system to be effective.

"How in heaven's name do you expect to bring about real political change if these issue-by-issue activist groups refuse to engage in partisanship? Our system, if we're going to continue to operate with it, is based on partisanship. If you're not, you might as well just pick up your gun, or alternatively give up," she explained.

For both sides, though they disagree on strategy, the ultimate goal of engaging the government with its citizens is an important one.

"Albertans deserve better," Finkel said. "We deserve to have a government that we actually can talk to, that we can lobby, that we can deliberate with."

NEWS BRIEF

U OF A WORKS IN COOPERATION WITH STUDENTS' UNION TO RENEGOTIATE COCA-COLA CONTRACT

Coca-Cola may remain the sole distributor of soft drinks on campus if the University of Alberta and Students' Union agree to a renegotiation of their original 1998 contract.

Initially set to expire in 2008, the contract is being renegotiated to avoid a two-year penalty term due to the failure of the University and SU to meet sales targets in the original agreement. The penalty would have seen the SU receive no revenue from sales on campus.

Coca-Cola offered to waive the two-year term under the condition that a new ten-year agreement be implemented, making Coca-Cola the Single Source Cold Beverage (SSCB) provider on campus for a total of 17 years. A referendum was held in 2007 which gave approval for the Students' Union to renegotiate the contract over the 2008/09 year.

Under the new agreement, the SU is looking forward to increased control over the disbursement of awards and scholarships due to residual funds from sales.

"The new agreement includes a clause that will create a mechanism for the Students' Union to influence the disbursement of scholarship and bursary funds," Vice President (Operations and Finance) Steven Dollansky explained.

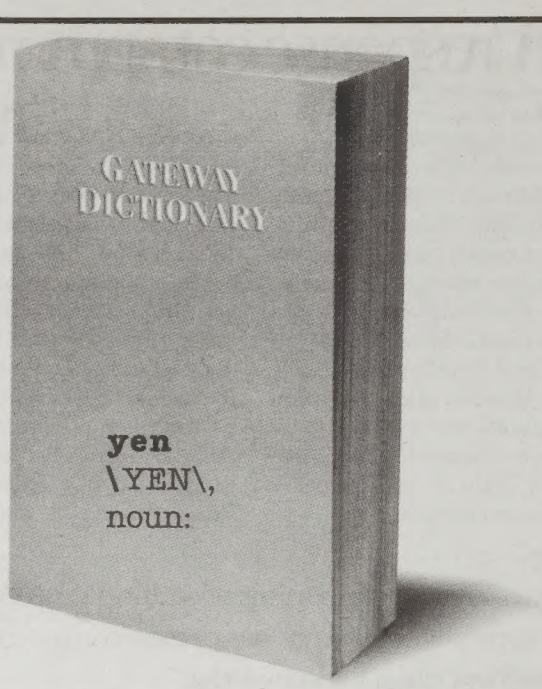
"This is a great step towards increased student input in the operations of the University Awards Office and we are grateful that the University agreed to this proposal."

Dollansky added that potential revenue would reflect over-the-counter sales in addition to vending machines and would be shared between scholarships, bursaries, and SU services.

"Our position is very strong and this is a tribute to the University's willingness to work towards ensuring a potential contract with Coca-Cola Bottling, [which] results in the student population receiving the maximum possible benefits," he said.

The agreement is still under negotiation between the University, Students' Union, and Coca-Cola, but Dollansky aims to finalize everything by the end of his term, which wraps up at the end of April.

—Kyle Gibson, News Writer



1. A strong desire or inclination; a longing.

As used in a sentence: The bright-eyed and bushy-tailed first-year had an inexplicable yen to pursue a career in student journalism with the help of the Gateway.

While students might be nearing the end of this year's academic semester, it's never too late to get involved with the news section of the Gateway. We're always looking for new and eager writers who want to get involved with the exciting life of reporting on events taking place in or around campus.

Maybe the weight of impending exams and papers has you feeling panicked and you could use a distraction! If so, drop by a news meeting, Fridays at 4pm in SUB 3-04.

GATEWAY NEWS:
providing campus with the yen to read and write since 1910.



LINE EDITORS
The Gateway is accepting applications for the following line editor positions** for the 2009/2010 publishing year:

MANAGING EDITOR
SENIOR NEWS EDITOR
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR
OPINION EDITOR
SPORTS EDITOR
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR
PHOTO EDITOR
DESIGN & PRODUCTION EDITOR
ONLINE EDITOR

All terms run from 1 May 2009 to 30 April 2010. The full-time paid portion of the job runs from mid-August to the end of April. Four issues of the Gateway will be produced over the summer months. All line editors will be expected to train on at least three of the four summer issues (unless granted leave by the hiring committee) for an honorarium of $100/issue. In their full-time capacities, the salaries for each position are as follows: Managing and Senior News will receive $1625.43* per month, all other line editors will receive $1281.88* per month. Please note that candidates may apply for no more than two (2) positions, except by special dispensation of the Line Editor Selection Committee.

Applicants should submit a covering letter, resumé and portfolio to **Gateway Business Manager (Asia Szkudlarek, 780-492-6669, biz@gateway.ualberta.ca) by noon on Friday, 13 March 2008.** Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews.

THE GATEWAY

GSA response compromised

SSHRC • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"The world's most important scientific discoveries have typically come from basic research, driven by researchers' quest for knowledge, with a scientific peer-review process making decisions about what areas and what research to fund," she wrote.

The federal New Democratic Party has also launched their own campaign against the business-related degree provision stated in the budget, prompting them to start an online petition surrounding the issue.

"Having a government tell a peer-reviewed research body that stands for academic freedom what academic discipline they should focus their funds on is fundamentally wrong," said Niki Ashton, the NDP critic for postsecondary education, in a conference call with campus media outlets last week.

Ashton also noted that, despite the scholarships, the government will cut a total of $147.9 million from the budgets of SSHRC and two other federal granting agencies over the next three years.

The budget document states that the money saved from the "streamlining" will be used to support repairs at postsecondary institutions, as well as funding graduate internships and scholarships.

Ashton added that he has spoken with the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) and the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) on the issue. She said that both groups share the concern toward academic freedom.

Currently, the University of Alberta Graduate Students' Association (GSA) isn't aligned federally with any organization, and President Ben Whynot feels that their response to the recent budget confusion has been compromised.

"That's been an obstacle in the GSA's ability to respond effectively to federal decisions like this," he said. "Greater federal presence is something that the organization has to look at in the future."

Whynot explained that it's not actually clear what the change in funding seems to be. A clarification posted on the SSHRC website on 28 February stated that "the additional scholarships will increase support for graduate students researching business-related areas," a difference from "business-related degrees," as the original budget document stated.

"If the new allocation of scholarships is going to business-related degrees, that's going to cutout or limit a lot of excellent research in fields that just aren't in the actual [School] of Business," Whynot said.

As of press time, SSHRC President Chad Gaffield was unavailable for comment.

> **"The world's most important scientific discoveries have typically come from basic research, driven by researchers' quest for knowledge."**
>
> **PENNI STEWART**
> CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF UNVERSITY TEACHERS PRESIDENT

BC judge rules current medicina marijuana laws unconstitutiona

ANDREW FARRIS
The Martlet

VICTORIA (CUP)—The quasi-legal status of Victoria's compassion clubs may have come a step closer to resolution this week after a British Columbia Supreme Court ruling declared parts of Canada's current medicinal marijuana laws unconstitutional.

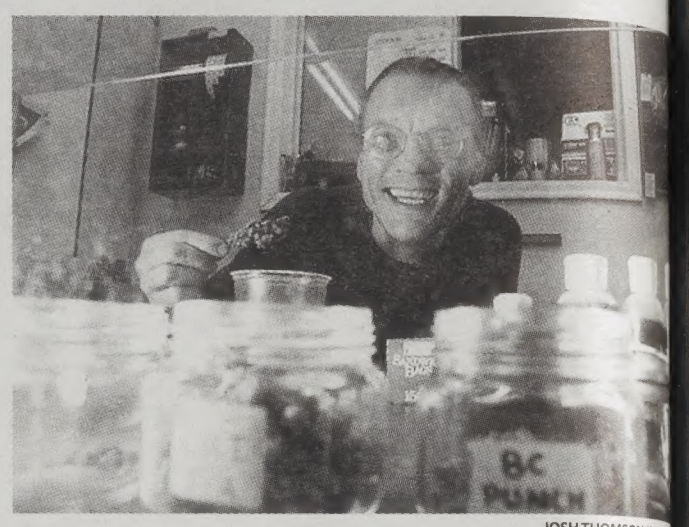
The law, which forbids any supplier from distributing medical marijuana to more than one patient, has forced the non-profit clubs into operating illegally, despite the consent of Victoria's police department.

The judge has given Health Canada one year to review the laws and make it easier for purveyors of medicinal marijuana, both inside and outside of the law, to keep patients supplied.

The verdict comes as a huge victory for people like Mat Beren of the Vancouver Island Compassion Society (VICS). Beren was caught tending the VICS' grow-op in Sooke—a district of Vancouver Island—when police raided the facility in 2004 and confiscated 900 plants.

Although Beren was found guilty of growing and trafficking an illegal substance, the prosecution's demands for a stiff sentence were thrown out. Beren suffered no penalty or criminal record.

This most recent ruling brings into light the legal limbo in which many organizations such as VICS operate. The Supreme Court of Canada has ruled that marijuana—which is effective for easing the suffering of those with chronic conditions—is a constitutional medicine and the government has a responsibility to provide it to those with a doctor's prescription.



JOSH THOMSON/THE M

THE DOPEST DOPE A review has been set for the laws about medicinal mari

Beren's defence made the case that the marijuana provided by the federal government, which is grown in a Manitoba mineshaft, was of poor quality and obtaining it meant jumping over "unnecessary bureaucratic delays or obstacles."

Philippe Lucas, the director of VICS, also points out that the federal application process can take weeks or months, time that can be ill-afforded by those who are in enough pain to warrant a medicinal marijuana prescription.

It was because of these regulatory hurdles and the inadequacy of federal marijuana supplies that the compassion clubs were able to spring into existence in the first place. VICS, for ex serves more than 850 doctor-r patients on Vancouver Island.

Justice Marvyn Koenigsberg in Beren's case that while comp clubs "enhanced other people at minimal or no risk to society "did so outside any legal frame

The onus to reform the legal work lies not with the com clubs, but with Health Canada Canadian College of Physicians failed to make medicinal ma sufficiently available for chronic ers, said Koenigsberg.

Other compassion associatio the Cannabis Buyers Club, a co of the University of Victoria Hempology 101 Society, have g the likely review of the laws surr ing clubs with enthusiasm.

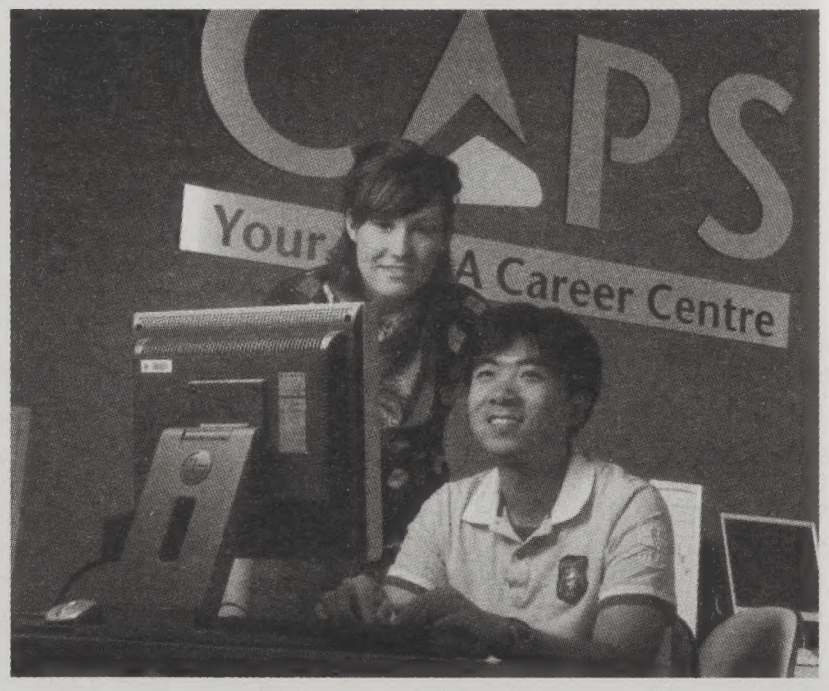
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2-100 SUB or 8917 HUB Mall 780-492-4291 www.caps.ualberta.ca

New SU needs to show some results

THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN', OR SO SAYS Bob Dylan. On 5 March, the University of Alberta student body elected their Students' Union executive for the 2009/2010 academic year, tasking four fresh new faces to challenge the status quo. The sole returnee from this year's forgettable SU executive is Vice President (External) Beverly Eastham, who successfully returned to the fold after being removed from the race.

This election was slightly more successful than last year's; however, the 20.4 per cent voter turnout is still pretty pathetic. The biggest thing driving numbers up this year was the introduction of virtual polls—voters are now able to comfortably sit at home in their skivvies when selecting who will represent them in the coming year. It certainly made it easier to participate in the elections as it made the voting process that much easier, but it still doesn't eliminate the complete lack of involvement amongst the student body.

The question that remains to be answered is how they'll work towards addressing the other 80 per cent of students that decided not to cast their ballot. As heard from the mouth of VP (External) hopeful Justin VannPashak, the SU is just not engaging the average student. They don't offer anything tangible to most people. They organize a fair amount of events, but they're also competing with everything else that's going on, and the events are filled with the usual suspects: the SU hacks and their tried and true posse.

This becomes an issue, as it creates their little microcosm of a community, much in the same way some view the *Gateway* or other campus groups. To keep doing their own events without actually getting other people to care makes the SU look even less appealing. Follow the lead of presidential candidate Jess Hahn: you couldn't go anywhere on campus without being bombarded with terrible puns on his name, and while it certainly was irritating, his tactics were annoying enough to get people to come out and vote for him. As far as marketing is concerned, being an annoyance is never a bad thing; there are some who will be completely ignorant, but a larger group will actually wake up and smell the flowers—the paper flowers, that is.

The SU now needs to give the thousands they hope to represent a reason to wake up. Each executive needs to know where the students want to go—not just assume that they already know. But people, by all means, avoid risk. Each year with the Students' Union fees being handed over by the thousands of dollars, there's a good reason to expect something concrete, not just more fruitless advocacy efforts.

With this year's SU President-elect Kory Mathewson being one who has very little connection to the Listerite experience—something that arguably limited the focus of our last two presidents—we can only hope to see fresh ideas. Mathewson is still a relative question mark, as he doesn't have much experience in these games, but he does carry with him a vast amount of charisma and a fairly diverse background. Should he be able to hold back some of the position's deep-rooted idealism, a response from the campus may finally be seen.

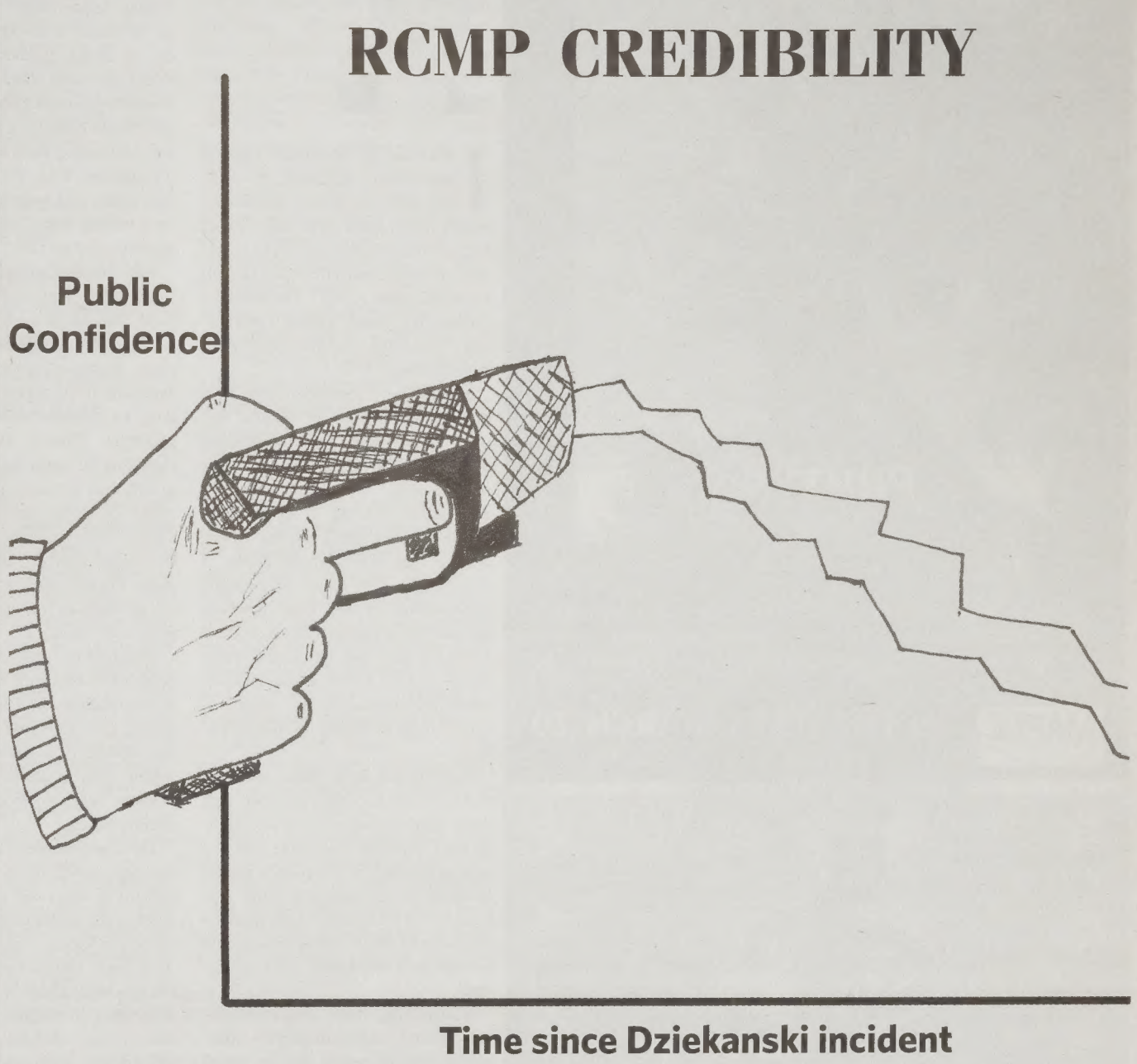
Apathy, as part of the larger picture, is a problem that is inherent in this generation. It takes more than a little push for anyone to care. We're used to having everything handed to us in an obvious way. Because of that, it takes twice as much effort to convince anyone to care about anything—especially for a commuter campus such as the U of A. It really is time for someone to step up and bring the tangible results to light.

PETE YEE
Photo Editor

Rumble down under

Kangaroo breaks in
Pouch no match for a man's fist
Don't smash and grab, mate

NICK FROST
Sports Editor



CODY CIVIERO

LETTERS

Fraternity stereotypes ignore their contributions

I had read a letter to the editor on Thursday titled "My big fat Greek rant" (5 March) and when I completed reading it, I also noticed a footnote from the *Gateway* a mere two columns away.

"The *Gateway* reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature."

Now, I won't rant about how this student is writing this only because his girlfriend hasn't been spending as much time with him as he would like.

Instead, I'd like to comment on the continuous bashing, marginalizing, and odious commentary that the *Gateway* has done to the Greek system. In my years on this campus, I have seen the *Gateway* change, and continuously it has continued to become more spiteful and angry towards the Greeks on campus.

I personally have been involved in many aspects of student life on this campus—I have experienced everything from SU hackery, Ski Club, Engineering Week, SU events, and drama productions to Inter-Fraternal Council, Greek Formals, and international conventions. I love volunteering and I enjoy staying informed about the issues that affect students in their day-to-day lives. Yet the most rewarding experience for me has been that of being a Greek.

I have friends all throughout campus, many who know I'm a Greek and don't judge me for it negatively. As I've said in the past, it's something I do and enjoy, but it doesn't label me as a person. It's something that is from the outside looking in hard to understand, but from the inside looking out impossible to describe.

It's, in fact, a student group like any other—a student group that deserves the same rights and respect as any other. Yet at the same time it's more. It's a collection of groups with hundreds of years of tradition that aim for the betterment of its members: through learning to run an organization, holding yourself accountable, and being active members in the community.

In the past there was a time where some of these organizations had used it as an excuse to drink and party. Today however, that's not so. We have rules, we have ambitions, and we learn to be responsible within our organizations. We enjoy ourselves like all students, but are far more tame and responsible than most groups. We have accountability.

I hope that the *Gateway* can understand that any assault on this group is the same as an assault to anyone else, and that allowing uninformed slander is the same as casting the mud yourselves. I leave it to every student to inform themselves, never judge before experiencing, and to try everything this campus has to offer. Thankfully I can say that being a Greek is among them.

SEAN MCQUILLAN
Arts IV

Greeks not dumb drunks

I'm disappointed that Van Aerde's letter was published in the *Gateway* last week. This letter is slanderous and many of the statements that were made were based on stereotypes and lies.

I currently belong to a sorority on campus, and I've thoroughly enjoyed my experience so far. Van Aerde claimed that social events take precedence over academics. The opposite is true. Members who aren't taking their studies serious enough don't participate in social events. Van Aerde said that he hasn't seen any sign of our philanthropy around campus, but perhaps he's not keeping his eyes open. Last Monday, we held an air band competition on SUB stage to raise money for our literacy foundation, and a month ago we raised over $500 for literacy through a bake sale held in Business Atrium. Our organization dedicates a great deal of time and effort to supporting literacy on a regular basis.

Alcohol isn't permitted on the property of the sorority house and although I've attended parties held at fraternity houses, I have never seen anyone consuming illegal drugs. These organizations do not exist for the sole purpose of alcohol consumption, and there are several members of my sorority in particular who don't drink. I disagree with most of Van Aerde's claims, and I feel that he should try to learn more about the Greek system before he decides to insult fraternities and sororities.

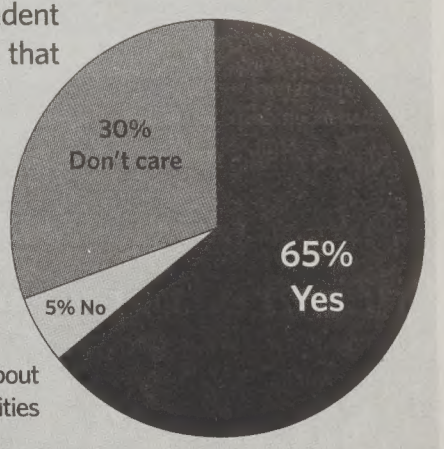
KATHERINE YACKULIC
Science I

PLEASE SEE LETTERS • PAGE 8

readerpoll

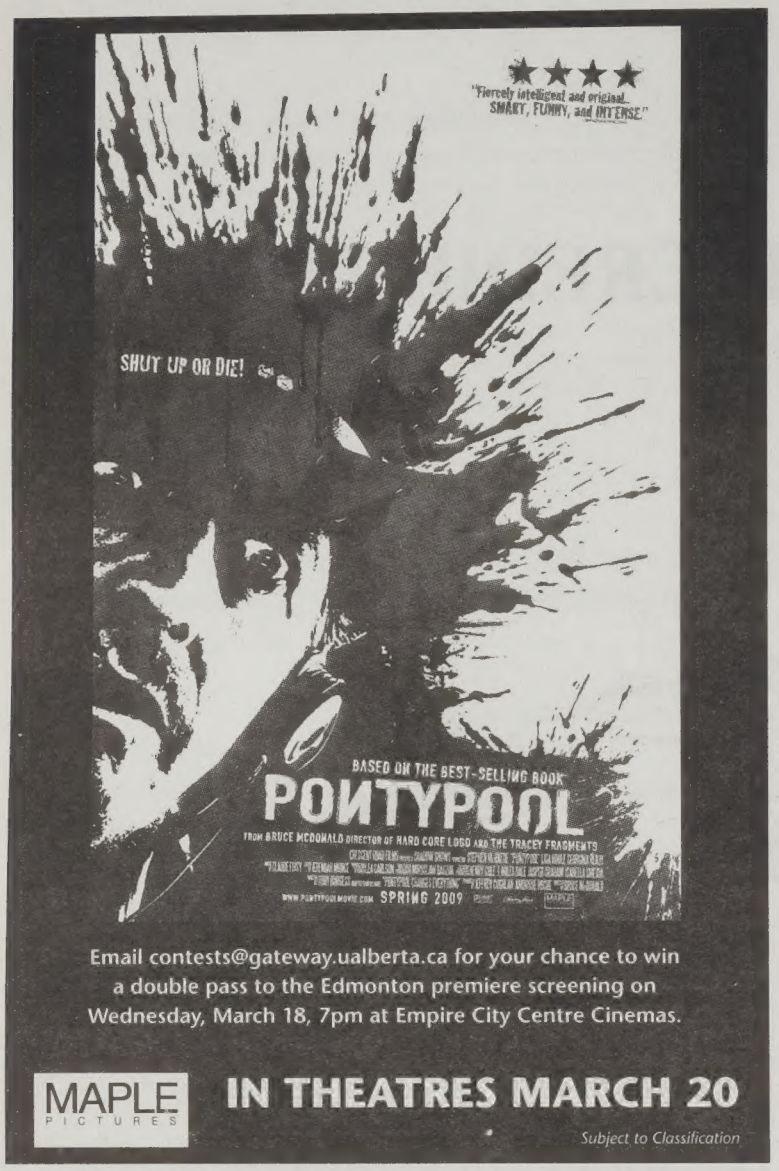
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MAPLE PICTURES **IN THEATRES MARCH 20**

Subject to Classification

Don't knock Asian stores



CODY CIVIERO

In an act of misguided cultural insensitivity intended to actually represent ethnic cohesion, a report commissioned by the City of Calgary has recommended the avoidance of "Asian malls that cater only to a specific ethic group." The advisory claims that these "ethnic enclaves" can "diminish overall community cohesiveness."

Maybe that's somewhat true in a purely "melting pot of societal sterility" sense. But there's something to be said for shopping strips that bring a sense of cultural belonging to a visible minority group attempting to integrate into a country whose culture they don't largely share. If a group of East Asian immigrants carve a block of their own in which to establish a connectedness to their heritage, they get to cherish their roots in this microcosmic location while still interacting in a multicultural, bilingual setting for most of the time.

And it's not as if these establishments refuse to serve customers that don't share an identical ethnic background. Nobody loses out, and any arising conflict is completely manufactured. If our society is truly supposed to be ethnically broad, then the tolerance of these businesses should be seen as a movement towards this ideal.

If anything, these shops encourage cultural understanding by offering customers insight into the more mundane details of the lives of other nationalities—the kind of subtle nuances that aren't written about or taught. To name an example, a Korean supermarket situated close to my house is stocked with a variety of exotic candies that can't be found anywhere else in this city that's flooded with mass-produced Cadbury and Nestle bars. It's a fun, refreshing and interesting place to visit because it's different from the standard grocery stores that we're used to visiting on a weekly basis, while offering an equally valid service.

Any number of typical Canadian malls filled with coffee shops, fast food, and Gaps could just as easily be described as alienatingly middle-class North American caucasian. Accusations of division could similarly be thrown at restaurants like pizzerias. This is ridiculous, and shouldn't be cause for anyone to feel guilty, and that's my point. "Ethnic" malls or areas are impossible to define. Every business has an inherent target market, and attempts to point fingers solely at foreign stores are ignorant of this at best and xenophobic at worst.

Worthwhile cultural integration takes time and baby steps. The recommendation by this commission would have foreigners dropped into the middle of a situation that they might not be accustomed to, and without anything to find solace and familiarity in.

The commission claims that this interferes with integration, but our culture is supposed to embrace the right of the ambitious small business owner to satisfy common demands. At its root, all that these catered outlets are really about is people finding something to identify with. The fact that so many of these specialty shops stay afloat is a testament to how well they fill this role.

LETTERS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Israeli crimes need coverage

Picking up the *Gateway* last Thursday, I was pleasantly surprised to see coverage of the Israeli Apartheid Week, but was also somewhat disappointed upon seeing that the issues surrounding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict were not addressed.

Impartiality is nice, but to the victims of the situation it's certainly not enough. I'd encourage you to provide some of the facts when covering such a story. The poster referred to in the article is indeed provocative, and rightly so. The Israeli incursion in January left over 1000 Palestinians dead, with more than a third of those children. The hypothetical situation on the poster is representative of these facts, and though they may be unpleasant, the University of Ontario's decision to ban the poster doesn't change the reality that it depicts.

Those numbers are but a tiny sliver of the whole picture, which I feel deserves better representation on your pages than I can give it here. I hope that in the future the *Gateway* will not shy away from covering such important issues in a more explorative and piercing manner.

JEREMY MORRIS
Via email

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca (no file attachments, please).

The Gateway *reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous, or otherwise hateful in nature. The* Gateway *also reserves the right to publish letters online.*

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study, and student identification number to be considered for publication.

Seriously though, no one has anything to say about the Students' Union election results? Lame.

In support of independent student press

The following editorial, originally published on 6 March, 2009, is reprinted from the Daily Californian, *the student newspaper at the University of California, Berkeley. It has been drafted and supported by 38 student newspapers across Canada and the United States in response to the striking employees of the the* Daily Emerald *at the University of Oregon.*

Although the strike was resolved yesterday, the Gateway *remains a strong advocate of independent student press as an autonomous organization, and offers its continued support to the staff of the* Daily Emerald *and the continued pursuit of editorial independence.*

On Wednesday morning, the entire editorial staff of the *Daily Emerald*—the student-produced newspaper at the University of Oregon—went on strike in protest of the attempts of its board of directors to install a publisher with unprecedented control over the newsroom.

College and University newspapers across North America stand in solidarity with the editorial staff of the *Daily Emerald* in support of the independent collegiate press and student-controlled editorial content. We are deeply dismayed by the short-sighted actions of the *Emerald*'s board of directors and strongly support the strike until the staff's demands are met, and independent student journalism can be safeguarded from such attacks at the *Emerald* and on college campuses across the conitnent.

On Thursday the board of directors had the audacity to publish their own version of the *Oregon Daily Emerald* using content from The Associated Press and a front-page statement from the board. This move is as offensive as it is unwise.

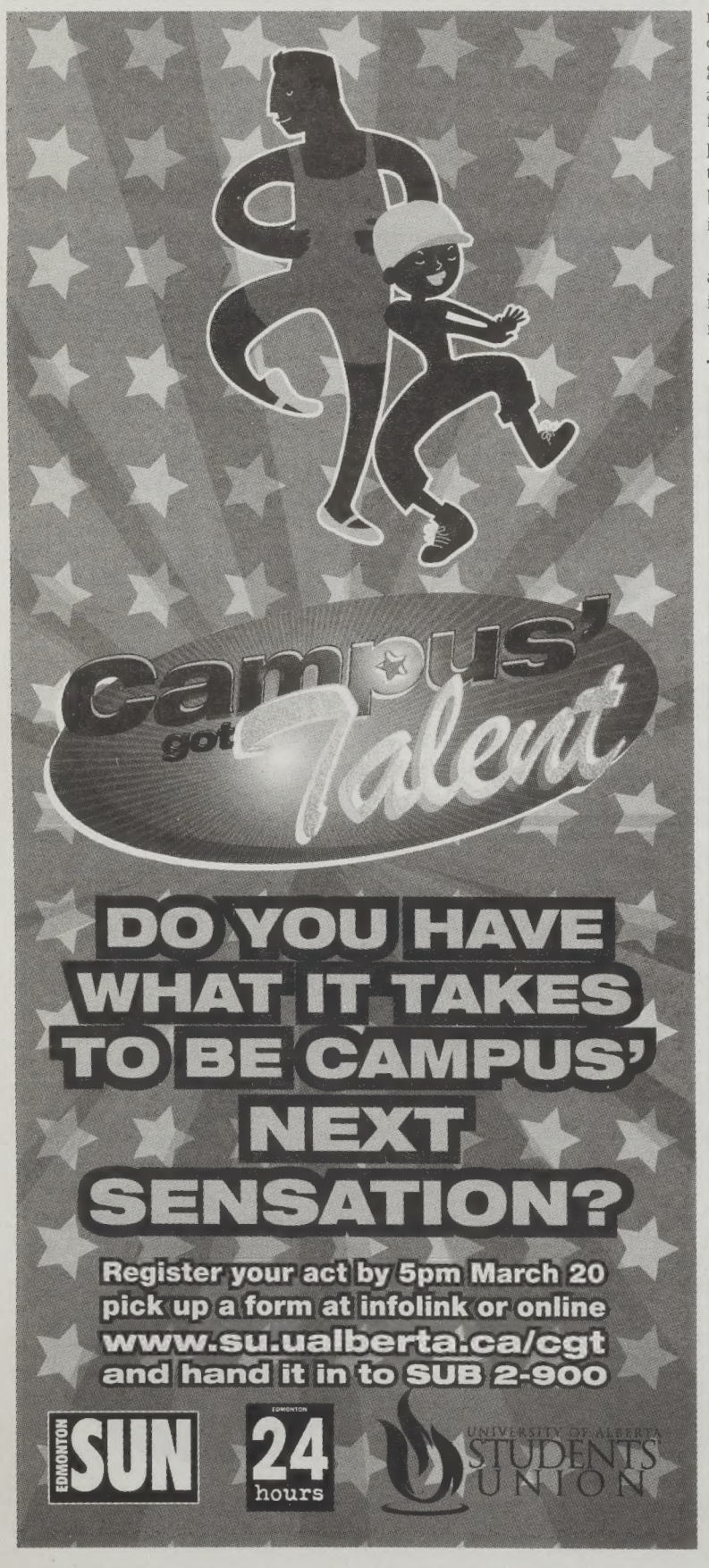
In November, the board of directors hired *Emerald* alumnus Steven A Smith as a consultant, and he drafted a plan which included a call to hire a publisher. Smith then authored the publisher's job description as well as his own terms of employment, which the board approved without negotiation. On 24 February, the board voted to hire Smith as the *Emerald*'s publisher and to give him unprecedented control over the full paper's operation, including supervising the Editor-in-Chief. Smith could also have been concurrently employed by the University, creating a clear path for the University to control what should be student-produced editorial content.

In the face of the strike, Smith has decided to withdraw his decision to accept the position. Today, the *Emerald* staff demands a nationwide search for a new publisher, whose authority would not extend over the editor and who would not be employed by the University.

Since its inception, the *Oregon Daily Emerald* has served as an invaluable learning resource for its student journalists, but if the board continues to wrest control from students, the *Emerald*'s mission and legacy will be invalidated. Without objectivity and independent content in the newsroom, the paper can't properly train its student reporters and the campus will lose an irreplaceable source of information, outside of the influence of University public relations efforts.

The *Emerald*, like many papers across the country, is in dire financial straits and faces the possibility of closure. This financial reality, however, shouldn't force the staff to compromise their guiding ethics as journalists or to sacrifice the paper's autonomy. The decision to give a publisher sway over journalists would in no way solve the paper's financial crisis; as such, this seems to be a callous overreaching by the board and the University, and an attempt to take advantage of a financially struggling, but influential student organization while the time is right.

We are living in a tough time for the newspaper business. Now more than ever, we must stand strong and stand together to maintain our editorial independence—any measure of overarching interference in content undermines our journalistic standards and is unacceptable, no matter the financial situation. Practicing journalism under the possibility of censorship and the meddling influence of an administration undermines the purpose of a free press—we hope that the *Emerald*'s board will recognize this undeniable fact and immediately meet the staff's demands. Until then, we stand with the *Oregon Daily Emerald*.



Mid-East full of enough division

Israeli Apartheid Week is more pointless antagonism on the Palestinian conflict



JUSTIN BENKO

This past week, the University of Alberta was divided into three camps: those who support Israel, those who support Palestine, and the rest of us.

For the first time on campus, the Palestinian Solidarity Network (PSN) hosted Israeli Apartheid Week (IAW). IAW began in Toronto in 2005 and has since spread to campuses and communities around the world. The essential goal of IAW, as stated by organizers at the U of A, is to raise awareness about the role that Israel plays in perpetuating the plight of the Palestinian people in Gaza and the West Bank. The Edmonton Hillel Jewish Students Association, who argue IAW is an oversimplification of a complex issue, represent the other side of the argument.

The rest of us cover the spectrum from believing that peace is possible to not giving a shit. Myself, I believe that peace is attainable. Not necessarily in the Middle East (although I hold out hope), but surely we can start to work towards it on campus. It's a shame that instead of having a week dedicated to Israel as an apartheid state, we couldn't hold a Peace Week or a Middle East week. The region is incredibly complex and deserves to be studied in an intellectually honest way, free from slogans, half-truths, and full lies.

Make no mistake—rather than admitting that the situation is complex, both sides are guilty of promoting the best of themselves and the worst of the other. In order for any real dialogue to occur, both sides have to be honest about what they do wrong.

> **I believe peace is attainable. Not necessarily in the Middle East (although I hold out hope), but surely we can start to work towards it on campus.**

The PSN needs to recognize that Hamas wants to destroy Israel, fires on civilian targets, intimidates rivals, and still hasn't allowed Amnesty International or the Red Cross access to the captured Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit. Hillel needs to admit that Israel has illegal settlements, uses weapons like cluster bombs, and restricts the movements and rights of Palestinians. By working toward peace, the University of Alberta chapters of the PSN and Hillel would set themselves apart from many campuses across Canada where IAW has devolved into chaos.

Particularly, Toronto's York University is awash in controversy after Pro-Israel and Pro-Palestine forces squared off in an incident where police had to be called in to escort Jewish students off campus. Further west, the RCMP are investigating an incident at the University of British Columbia, which resulted in physical altercations between the two groups in a residence, and back in Ontario, the University of Ottawa and Carelton University both banned the controversial posters depicting an Israeli Helicopter firing a missile at a Gazan child. And of course, who can forget when Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited Concordia University in 2002 and sparked a riot?

Israel Apartheid Week on the U of A campus was relatively calm compared to the disasters in Ontario, but without a doubt, it has entrenched the opinions of both sides and worked against collaboration, understanding, and peace.

Perhaps the Department of Political Science or Peace and Post-Conflict Studies need to step in and act as moderators. Barring that, I would call on the Students' Union and University administration to keep a close eye on both Hillel and the PSN, and if things get out of control, fine, censure, or ban them. It's important that both groups remember that students at the U of A are here, first and foremost, to study in an environment free of hatred and intimidation, where freedom of expression doesn't overshadow the rights of other students to peacefully go about their business.

Maybe I'm a naïve fool for believing that Hillel and PSN could work together, but it's certainly better than what will happen if they don't: Jews and Palestinians screaming at each other in the halls, with the rest of us caught in the middle.

Catholic authorities ignore situation



KEVIN DAY

> "Even the most ardent critic of abortion should, at the very least, acknowledge that this is truly an unusual and extraordinary case. Those who talk for hours about a fetus' right to life and how it didn't choose to be born should ask themselves about the girl's right to life."

The debate over abortion is an issue that's sure to get people's passions inflamed. On the two most extreme sides are those that believe abortion is wrong in every circumstance, and others who want abortions to be done freely and without restriction. Most people are comfortable with their beliefs, either being "pro-life" or "pro-choice," but then along comes a story that forces us to re-examine our own moral codes.

One such case is the excommunication of a doctor and mother from the Catholic church because they allowed a young child to have an abortion after she became pregnant with twins as a result of sexual abuse by her stepfather.

When I heard about this case, I was deeply saddened that the Church had decided to take such an extreme measure against these individuals. It's appalling and indefensible that the Catholic church felt the need to eject these otherwise good people from the community for no reason other than trying to save a life. The medical establishment was certain that if the twins were allowed to come to term, both them and the girl would die. An abortion was the only way to save the girl's life. The local archbishop Jose Sobhrino, in comments made to the media, defended his decision saying that the laws of God are above the laws of man and that there was no reason to eliminate the lives of the twins.

This quite clearly demonstrates that the Church doesn't care about these most vulnerable members of their flock. It doesn't matter that not having the abortion would have certainly resulted in the death of three people; the only thing the Church cares about is the Fifth Commandment—"thou shalt not kill." There was no discussion; God said it was wrong, so it's wrong. It's distressing to see someone so committed to life prepared to let three people die so that he can say that he has never compromised on his beliefs.

Critics of the church have long smeared it by asking how a bunch of celibate old men could possibly understand the realities of family and life in the broader world. After seeing the reaction of the Church to this sad case, this argument holds a lot more water than it used to. It's easier to stand on the sidelines criticizing people than to have to make the decision yourself.

Even the most ardent critic of abortion should, at the very least, acknowledge that this is truly an unusual and extraordinary case. Those who talk for hours about a fetus' right to life and how it didn't choose to be born should ask themselves about the girl's right to life. She has a right to grow up and live it. She didn't ask to be placed in this situation. The Church hasn't taken this into account before passing judgement.

No one can argue about her status as a living human being. There have been arguments back and forth about when life begins but in this case, it's clear. The pregnant girl is clearly "alive" and, as such, her life should be placed at the forefront.

Another interesting aspect of this story is the abusive stepfather who, interestingly enough, is on the run from police. If anyone needs to be punished, it should be him. I'm fairly confident that God has some rule against having non-consensual sex with a minor—especially your stepdaughter—but there's no outrage from the moral authority on that one. This man has been abusing his stepchildren, leaving one of them pregnant, but the focus of moral scrutiny is on the mother and doctor.

We as Christians can't claim to be moral, good people when we allow a child to die needlessly because we would rather follow the rules than do what is right. Morality comes from doing the right thing, and sometimes to do the right thing, we need to bend the rules. My heart goes out to the young girl and her mother for having to endure such an ordeal. As for the archbishop: you sir, should be ashamed of yourself.

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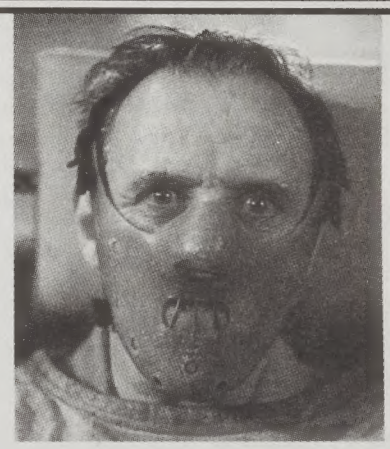
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Things are looking up—with a new cut and less bad luck



DAVID JOHNSTON

So two things of importance changed in the world last week: the SU elections went down and I got a haircut. Naturally, I'll be talking about these in order of cosmic importance.

It's a pretty dramatic hairstyle change. I've been sticking to the shaggy emo look for quite some time, also known as the "I'm too cheap to afford a barber" look. But since spring was coming and the snow was obviously disappearing soon, I decided to go for a short coiffure that left my ears open and exposed to the lovely shining rays of the sun (note to self: next time, before making changes to personal coiffure, consult *long*-range weather forecasts). Anyways, I'm now no longer one of the hundreds of ungroomed moptops wandering campus, and am instead one of the hundred of pretentious, spiky-headed, overgelled douches. So goes life.

I pretty much watched the elections with one eye closed; they weren't particularly exciting this year, since half of the runnings were either uncontested or empty. And everyone who the *Gateway* said would win did, which is apparently because of the hypnotic power of the mass media or something. What I did find curious was the apparent derailing of my SU election curse.

I'm now no longer one of the hundreds of ungroomed moptops wandering campus, and am instead one of the hundred of pretentious, spiky-headed, overgelled douches. So goes life.

For those of you not in the know, allow me to elaborate. Every year, I find that a curious thing happens in the SU elections: the candidate that I know the closest on a personal level will always, *always* lose, and always in some inherently humorous method. Always.

Three years ago, for instance, does anyone remember Greg German? Third-place presidential hopeful. He was also one of the head cheeses in the fraternity I was rushing. No, really. I almost rushed a frat in my first year. Now, I know what you're all thinking, "David, you inglorious bastard, *you* joined a frat?" And that's exactly right. Can you see me involved with a frat? Well, okay, with my hair like this, you probably can. But I would be the worst fraternity brother ever. I'd end up burning down their house in some ironic method with a soldering iron.

Thankfully, we all realized this and I eventually extricated myself from their clutches with only minor arsony. The point is, I knew German, albeit vaguely, and he ended up losing the race, despite the fact that half of his competition was disqualified for buying too much green paint.

Two years ago, when Cody Lawrence and I were big-hair friends in our Film Studies class, he ran, and was denied. Last year, my buddy Sean McQuillan not only ran, but enlisted me to help out as a volunteer. This didn't go well, given how I know that I was personally responsible for like a quarter of his many fines and rulings (turns out you can't put posters in Rutherford. Or staple them to rabbits). It's a real pity, given how similar my hair now looks to the way Sean wore his then. Just think—my hair could have had an electorate stamp of approval. I'm getting chills here.

So this year, when I received an invitation to the "vote for Kory Mathewson" Facebook group, my heart sank. Because I knew Kory secondhand from the drama department, and I'm friends with his friends, and I've seen him perform—and he was doomed right then and there, just because his girlfriend had included me on the invite list. Congratulations, Qelsey—you almost cost him the race. I hope you're proud of yourself.

Fortunately, an old junior high classmate of mine unsuccessfully ran for VPSL, so Kory was able to narrowly slip the bonds of the curse, breaking the age-old tradition and ushering in a new era of candidates who David hasn't damned. And this indicates that my curse is escapable, which in turn relates back to our opening theme of "things change." So in the end, everyone wins.

Except for Ian Clarke, the doomed VPSL candidate who was beaten in the polls by a collectible action figure. Sorry, Ian. But look on the bright side—maybe it wasn't the curse. Maybe it was your hair.



Becoming the Breakdown



Words by Ben Dextraze
Photos by Pete Yee

"With b-boying, you've got old-school foundational people who love doing old-school moves and then you have contemporary dancers who love to remake them. B-boying isn't a style of dance that has a definite number of moves and a concrete way of doing them. There's a foundation to b-boying, but you can do whatever you want with it. It's not what you do—it's how you do it."

Sasha Cherkawsky is a dancer by trade and b-boy by right. He currently teaches dance at Third Street Beat—Edmonton's only solely urban dance studio—and offers introductory b-boying classes through the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation at the University of Alberta. Cherkawsky caught on to break dancing at an early age, but once his passion started to develop, he was left without a means to pursue his new-found art.

"I used to do Ukrainian dancing and gymnastics, but migrated to break dancing because the tricks were similar. Dances like the Hopak—it's the end-of-the-show dance—and trick moves like split jumps were a lot like the break moves you would see on music videos," Cherkawsky explains. "There was this studio in Edmonton—it was a class that was run out of this guy's studio called Urban Elements. I remember I was in grade nine and it was $20 for six hours—which was really cheap—and you didn't really have any instruction because you just watched and asked other people what things were."

Soon after Cherkawsky started b-boying at Urban Elements, the studio closed its doors, leaving the dancer with nowhere to go except to VHS tapes of b-boy battles. When breaking first became popularized, it was because of exposure through the media. But just like Cherkawsky's case, there wasn't any way to learn this crazy new dance except through imitation of other people, television, or movies.

"The only way you could really learn b-boying in Edmonton in the '90s was to buy videos on VHS. I have a ton of videos, and I would watch a guy doing moves and learn what he did that way; then I would take each move and try to change up the order of the moves," Cherkawsky continues.

"The original guys in New York—like Ken Swift, Crazy Legs, the Rocksteady Crew, and the New City Breakers—were popularized in the '80s during the opening of the Olympics in Los Angeles and through movies like *Flashdance*. Because of this, new crews around the world started to form. B-boys would watch this in other countries but they wouldn't know what the moves were called, so they developed their own foundational styles that differed slightly. It's weird, because the names of all the moves like the six-step and three-step are universal, but other moves like the pretzel depend on where you are in the world—they may call it something completely different."

The art of b-boying originated at house parties thrown by DJ Kool Herc in the Bronx in 1975. Kool Herc found that the people were dancing crazily to the beat breaks in his records—short interludes of percussion before the climax of a song. To extend these breaks, Kool Herc brought another record player and a mixer so that he could switch from one record to another without the audience noticing. Once this happened, the breaks in the records could be played indefinitely—a move that allowed b-boying to find its tempo and take off.

With the help of the hip hop DJ, people started taking their quick-paced dance to other areas of New York, where other cultures added their own personal moxie. Hispanic and Puerto Rican breakers began taking the dance to a whole new level, forming fresh new moves on top of what African Americans had already done.

Shortly after, a group of b-boy performers called the Rocksteady Crew formed, and when they discovered another crew called The New City Breakers, the rest was history. They started holding b-boy battles, and it wasn't long before they caught the media's attention and b-boying became televised. When members of the Rocksteady Crew performed in the movie *Flashdance*, they exposed the scene to the entire world, taking b-boying—which by that time had morphed into what the media called break dancing—global.

The foundational categories that make up the core of b-boying are up-rock, down-rock, freezes/stalls/floats, and power moves. Up-rock consists of moves that vary in name and style between locales, but usually focus on quick, upright footwork and hand and arm movements to the rhythm of the beat and music.

Uprock usually leads into some type of down-rock—where the feet and hands work together on the floor to rapidly shift the body to the rhythm. Down-rock is carried by footwork that doesn't require as much physical power, which opens the door to personal flavour or style.

However, the more gymnastic and physical the b-boying becomes, the more complex moves require some caution to prevent injury. Tricks like freezes or power moves can tear muscles or break wrists because of their extreme nature. However, they look fantastic when rehearsed and executed properly.

"B-boying is a freestyle dance form. The biggest thing you have to do is dance with the music; you'll learn when the music stops, you stop" Cherkawsky says. "When there's a horn or something, you can play with that, you have to listen to the music. You have to dissect the music. You take your own style and let the music tell you what to do. Different beats should make you dance a different way."

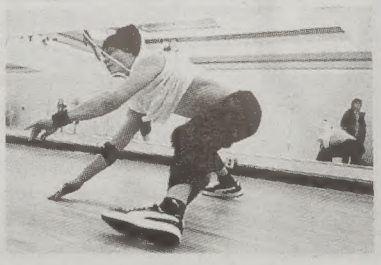








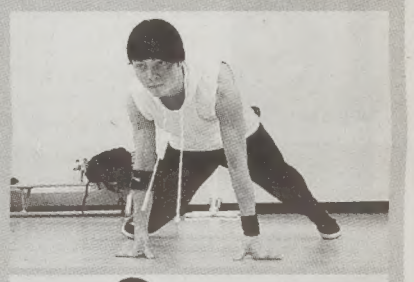




Doing The Six-Step

You can do the six-step counter or clockwise in motion. Start the movement in a push-up position with both hands and feet on the ground and your hips partially bent, allowing the body to form a partial triangle. Starting the motion clockwise:

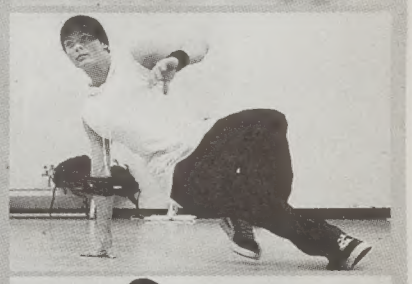
1 Take your right leg and slide it under your left as you lift your left hand off the ground, placing your right toe where your hand was.



2 While trying to keep your balance centred, take your left leg and place it behind your right knee, forming a cross-legged crab position; still holding your balance on the ground with your right hand.



3 Next, swing your right leg around the front—un-crossing your legs, but still maintaining a squat while keeping on your toes—placing your right foot under your bum.



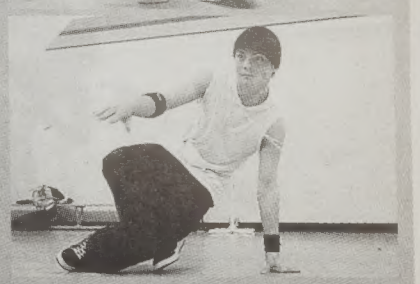
4 Now quickly shift your balance from your right hand to the left, while simultaneously sweeping your left leg around the front of the right to re-form a cross-legged position on the other side.



5 Slide your right leg back and out about 45 degrees to reach the closest point to which it first started in the push-up position.

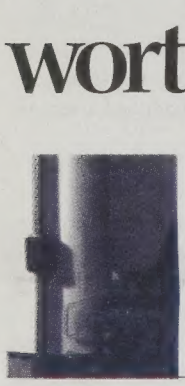


6 Now bring your left leg under your right to its original position, while the right hand also comes down to find its original starting position.





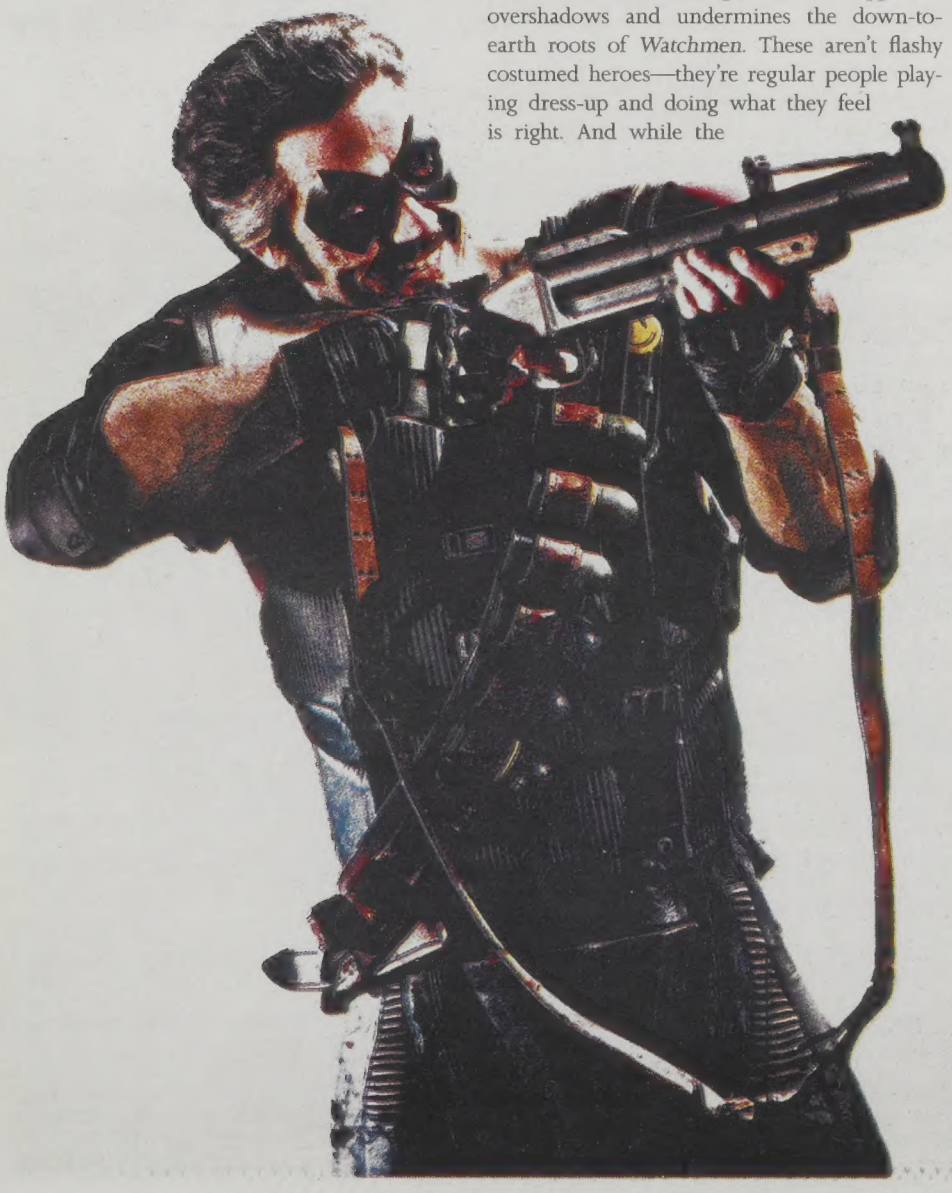
The world will look up and shout "is this movie worth it?" And the *Gateway* will whisper, "maybe"



A&E STAFF

Group Review

After taking time out of their weekend to see the first blockbuster of the year, Gateway A&E staff had mixed reactions to the Watchmen film.



Conal Pierse

Essentially, *Watchmen* is a solid B-movie. It doesn't truly disappoint, but it doesn't hold much thrill for fans of the comic either. Sure, there's plenty of dialogue that's been lifted directly from the graphic novel and the plot is almost identical, but it can never fully satisfy its fans simply because it has been designed to please the masses. What results is akin to what would happen if Frank Miller had written *Watchmen*—a problem that stems solely from the director.

Zack Snyder's directing has all the subtlety and grace of a stampeding elephant in slippers. Everything he does has to be big—especially Dr Manhattan's disturbingly omnipresent Johnson—and this larger-than-life approach overshadows and undermines the down-to-earth roots of *Watchmen*. These aren't flashy costumed heroes—they're regular people playing dress-up and doing what they feel is right. And while the action sequences certainly are enjoyable, capturing that sought-after "holy fuck" atmosphere perfectly, they seem out of place in what is largely a character-driven story. They're advertisements—gawdy, colourful, and designed to keep your average couch potato from changing the channel.

That being said, I understand why a fair number of such changes were made. *Watchmen* is a very deep story, with large over-arching philosophical themes and moral dilemmas. The fact that you needed to reread and actually think about what was occurring in order to fully understand the message is what made the comic so endearing and powerful; however, it's also what would make it box office poison. The simple truth is, nobody wants to walk out of a blockbuster feeling stupid. You don't want to see the credits roll and be left thinking, "what did it all mean?" because you can't afford to shell out another twelve dollars and three hours in order to figure it all out. And it's because of this, the idiot-proofing of a complex idea, that fans of the comic will never be fully satisfied.

For most, this movie is nothing more than a consolation prize—something to make you feel better, but not what you were hoping for. You won't be angry or upset, but you will be disappointed that it's the masses, not the fans, that studios want to watch the *Watchmen*.

Sarah Stead

When I was first told that a *Watchmen* movie was going to be released, I quietly admitted that I'd yet to read the graphic novel. "You *have* to!" a guy in one of my classes implored, and he brought the bright yellow book to class the following week. Chalk it up to papers and exams, but it's still sitting on my shelf unread, and I went to see the movie anyway. Comic book aficionados sitting near me in the theatre debated whether or not it was even possible to compress so many details and subplots into a 163-minute film. The short answer is "no."

Though I found that I was constantly engaged for the length of the film, without having read the book, keeping all of the character names and their superhero aliases straight was difficult. But when the plot was fuzzy, it was the incredible and arresting visuals that held my interest. The fight scenes—and there are many—tended to become a tad "*Matrix*-y" at times, with several short bouts of slow-motion punching and dodging while the camera rotates 360 degrees. In spite of that, those scenes were some of the strongest ones in the film. There were no BIFFs, POWs, or ZINGs—just real blood and real brutality. Alan Moore's imagined alternate ending to the Cold War is intriguing, but both he and his characters seem to recognize that peace doesn't come without a price, and that costliness doesn't equal permanence. So, who watches the *Watchmen*? I did, as should you—but read the book first.

Kai Benson

To hell with the overhyped expectations. Screw the controversy over this "unfilmable" film. And, most importantly, fuck all of the fanboys jeering at this movie's supposed inferiority. Having read the comic, I found no reason to hate this movie. The changes they made from the original were miniscule and the spirit of the story stays the same.

This movie is by no means the second coming, but Zack Snyder pulls it off with style. Mixing in some of his old *300*-style violence with the comic's take on the superhero, we get a truly unique and fun movie. It's the expectations of this movie that cause all the phony controversy around it, and anyone who has no expectations of it will invariably find it to be an acceptable, if not entirely mind-blowing, piece of film. One other thing that may lead to the downfall of *Watchmen* is the run time, which is close to three hours. But with the large number of central characters, the story keeps pretty busy and it never seems tedious. Still, it may not stand up to repeated viewings.

But regardless, you can take all the bullshit surrounding this movie and throw it right out the window. *Watchmen* isn't an amazing epic that will change superhero films forever, nor is it an abomination worthy of mass nerd-riots. It's just a good movie that's worth seeing for the cool characters, snazzy effects, and comic book violence.

Oh, and there's big blue cock. Tons of it.

Cody Civiero

I read the graphic novel, and it moved me. It kept me up. It made me think. And while I understand that tampering with source material isn't only acceptable but unavoidable in any medium translation, it's sad to see good art get butchered.

If his credits, including the mindless, misogynistic, chest-thumping gore-fest *300* left room for doubt in anyone's minds, Zack Snyder has proven himself incapable of depicting anything meaningful. *Watchmen* is a faithful adaptation on a superficial level, while missing the point



entirely. It's visually interesting, but metaphorically empty. It's technically proficient but sterile.

Without giving away major spoilers, the simplified climax is actually a good move, given the constraints of the new format. The real problems in storytelling stem from the smaller changes. The gratuitous gore that's spattered more than liberally throughout the film undermines the violence that's supposed to matter. Small additions or subtractions in the characters' actions muddles what they represent, making them confused hypocrites and completely dissolving the subtext that gave the original story weight.

There are sparks of inspiration here and there, such as the intriguing title credits appropriately set to Bob Dylan's "The Times They Are A-Changin'" that successfully convey a lot in a small amount of time. But they're fleeting and buried under dismemberments and fucking.

Watchmen had an infamous reputation for being unfilmable, and the results give a good sense as to why. The film feels rushed, but if it didn't, it would probably feel castrated. It's not going to please fans who wanted any depth retained, and the plot will be cluttered and convoluted for those who didn't read the comic.

Aaron Yeo

Having read Alan Moore's graphic novel at least six times, I've been closely following the progress of the *Watchmen* since its actual production became a reality. Going into the theatre, my expectations were set high after these years of anticipation, and Zack Snyder's rendition of the classic story just about exceeded them.

As a Hollywood film, *Watchmen* manages to fare a little better than stereotypical 21st-century superhero flicks. The visuals are spectacular and unique, with Snyder's trademark slow-motion fighting scenes continuing to be impressive. Everything is present—action, adventure, a deep storyline, and well developed characters.

Naturally, a good portion of the enjoyment is found in how well the movie follows the comic series. Much of the dialogue is word-for-word, and nearly every scene is an accurate counterpart of a panel in the graphic novel, ensuring that avid fans will pee in excitement. Even minor details are attended to, such as signs in the background being replicated exactly as how they were in print. This movie is how any piece of literature should be brought to life.

Of course, it's hard to convert an epic 300+ page graphic novel into 160 minutes in a theatre without making a few errors. Some minor plot pieces are missing in the film, the characters leave a little something to be desired, and there are a few scenes that just weren't the same on screen. Most of all, the dark, moody atmosphere wasn't conveyed very well, which had a serious impact on the film as a whole.

Like the original, the film will need at least a couple of watches for one to really grasp its full potential. Hopefully this won't be as thoughtlessly overrated as *300*, but rather gather above-average fame and a respectful cult following more akin to *Sin City*'s success.

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OPENS IN THEATRES MARCH 20, 2009

Don't forget to celebrate National Man Date Day on Thursday, March 19!

Culture 102

Exhibit #4: Martha Stewart



The pleasant home-making titan and convicted stock market criminal had a bad weekend after her prized Chow Chow Ghengis Khan was killed in a freak propane explosion at his kennel.

Gateway A&E suggests a scrumptious lemon chicken breast and a side rosemary thyme garden salad with a touch of parsley on the side as comfort food.

GATEWAY A&E:

Thinking that detonated canines might not be a good thing since 1910

Meetings Thursdays at 5pm in SUB 3-04

Narration hampers gorgeous *One Week*

*film*review

One Week
Directed by Michael McGowan
Starring Joshua Jackson and Liane Balaban
Now playing



JAMES STORRIE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Resources may have been tight for director Michael McGowan when filming *One Week*, his province-spanning road trip film, but one resource was never out of reach: the awe-inspiring beauty of the Canadian landscape. With it, McGowan has created a poignant and visually impressive film, one compromised only by some unfortunate structural choices.

One Week is the story of Ben Tyler (Joshua Jackson), a young teacher who takes to the road for one last adventure after learning that he has cancer. Travelling westwards via motorcycle from Toronto, he sight-sees, eats at diners, and desperately tries to come to grips with his imminent death. He also misses his chemotherapy appointments, distressing both his family and his fastidious (but fine) fiancé Samantha (Liane Balaban). As he ultimately tells her, though, "This isn't about us. It's about me."

McGowan has described *One Week* as a love letter to Canada, and the Canadian landscape is as much the star of this film as Jackson. Despite his small crew and limited resources, McGowan has captured some of the most beautiful sights in the country and set them in a very impressive composition. A well-selected soundtrack of contemporary Canadian music likewise stamps this film with an undeniable here-and-now sort of feeling.

With all of these crystal-perfect images, one might think that McGowan would have no way to stray from the prime rule of drama: show, don't tell. Yet what hobbles this otherwise delightful film is precisely that. Tyler's adventure is constantly itemized by a third-person narrator. While the narrator is important (in theory) for some bookending at the film's conclusion, it's hard not to wonder just how excellent this film would have been without it. By constantly interjecting, *One Week*'s narrator removes all doubt about Tyler's emotions, which is completely unnecessary, as Jackson plays his part quite well and needs no assistance.

The hazy, detached feel of a week-long unplanned road trip is completely swept away by the plodding narrator, whose constant presence imposes strict and understandable limits on Tyler's adventure, nailing down even time itself. After a while, one wishes Tyler could just spend a little bit of his trip in silence; he *is* dying, after all. Granted, he's dying of one of those classic "old movie diseases," which show few symptoms and exist only to foment drama. But the lack of any undirected or contemplative moments robs the film of its potential. It doesn't help, either, that the soundtrack never particularly cuts out. Someone is always making some noise.

Still, while the overemphasis of the soundtrack and narrator are very unfortunate, *One Week* remains a touching film. Granted, not as touching as it could have been, but still something head and shoulders above many of its ham-fisted peers.

Joshua Jackson is a much better actor than he was on *Dawson's Creek* and it's no surprise that he's been so successful lately with *Fringe*. Liane Balaban, too, is very impressive, and the more we see of her in the next couple of years the better.

As an example of Michael McGowan's progress as a director, especially, *One Week* is very promising. The film is an enjoyable, memorable, and truly Canadian movie. With a few minor tweaks, McGowan's next effort could be a great one.

Artists, not audiences, wield creative license



AARON YEO
A&E Commentary

"I shan't be going to see [the *Watchmen* movie]. My book is a comic book. Not a movie, not a novel. A comic book. It's been made in a certain way and designed to be read a certain way: in an armchair, nice and cozy next to a fire, with a steaming cup of coffee."

These words were uttered by Alan Moore, co-creator and writer of the original *Watchmen* graphic novel as well as other renowned comics-turned-movies such as *V for Vendetta*, *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*, and the lesser-known *From Hell*. While his works have enjoyed some decent success in theatres, he has consistently distanced himself from the production process and has yet to see any of the film adaptations. Why? Because he simply doesn't want the movies to ruin what he had created.

That's a fair statement. He created those pieces the way he wanted them, using the medium he wanted. To have someone else come in, alter, and rework it for a wider audience, while flattering, can be a little invasive and irritating. However, diehard fans who refuse to watch these kinds of films on the basis that all will be ruined are fools.

Enthusiasts of any book will have a hard time appreciating a film adaptation. The same goes for video games, comics, and any other form of popular media that can be somehow presented on the silver screen. Quite often, these fans will complain that Hollywood is ruining the reputation of the original, when it's really beyond their control as to how those series are developed.

> The creators have control of the rights of their works, not the lowly comic book geek. There's no point in condemning movies because they "distastefully alter" the original contents.

Although every vote counts, not every opinion regarding films does. As sad as it may be, choosing to not watch a certain flick because it will potentially ruin the series won't prevent it from doing so. If the *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* movie was catastrophic to the reputable *Star Wars* franchise, it doesn't matter whether or not I watch it—it still sucks. Even if I try and disregard it completely, it's still out there, raining hell on many *Star Wars* aficionados. Denial isn't a solution.

The same goes for sequels. While some consider the second and third movies to have ruined the *Matrix* franchise, truthfully nothing was spoiled. The first movie is still as awesome as it was before, despite the following installments being disasters. And movies aren't made to be shit, so obviously the Wachowski brothers thought that they were doing a good job with *Reloaded* and *Revolutions* for their series, and it was their creative license to do what they wanted with it, regardless of what fans thought.

More often than not, the authors and creators of the original work grant their permission to such projects, and often even offer their time and support. In *Watchmen*'s case, artist Dave Gibbons was on board with the film adaptation and Alan Moore signed the rights over to him. The creators have control of the rights of their works, not the lowly comic book geek. There's no point in condemning movies because they "distastefully alter" the original contents.

Regardless of whether you like it or not, a movie will leave its mark, be it good or bad. Simply trying to ignore its existence won't change anything. Being in denial is pointless and purposeless, so you might as well just watch the film and appreciate the fact that they're separate entities, neither of which has to be affected by the other's reputation. And who knows? It could end up as a success and you could end up liking it.



Romi Mayes' bones ache with wanderlust

musicpreview

Romi Mayes
With Chloe Alberts
Friday, 13 March at 8pm
Haven Social Club (15120 Stony Plain Road)
$8 students advance, $15 at the door

STEFFI ROSSKOPF
Arts & Entertainment Staff

There's nothing fake about Romi Mayes. The self declared "Jim Beam Girl" uses *Achin' in Yer Bones* not only as the title but also the theme of her new album. It's a metaphor for the troubles people have in their lives, as well as the story of Mayes' own experiences with life's hardships, topped off with a 40 hour long bus ride home from Vancouver.

"That was a really crappy time I was about 19 years old and I had no one in the world. It felt like I didn't really have a connection with anybody and I was hitchhiking around and travelling the country and felt really isolated, really lonely [...] I was so depressed and had no money to even get food at pit stops when people would get their snacks at the Greyhound bus stations. Those kind of things happened a lot when I was younger, [but] I obviously have my shit together a lot more now."

By putting herself into her music and by being on the road for so long, Mayes embodies what she criticizes the current country music scene for lacking: honest, self-producing individuals that have more to offer than "confused, shitty pop songs." Mayes would never claim to be a pure country musician, but she is certainly not a "manufactured product" like so many others. In contrast, she writes her songs herself and tours nonstop to connect with her friends and to receive some feedback for her new album.

These ambitions will also bring her to Europe again as part of her tour later in April. With stops in Italy, the Netherlands, the UK, and Germany, Mayes visits places she believes are emerging markets for the kind of music she plays, even though that style isn't typically associated with the other side of the Atlantic.

"In Europe, there are huge [numbers of] country, blues, and Americana music fans. They consider [people] from Canada and the US to be 'the authentic.' We're closer to Hank Williams and Johnny Cash than they are [...] But they're a more appreciative and open-armed culture."

The enjoyment of this new-found respect for her music goes hand in hand with Mayes appreciation for being able to get the chance to tour Europe and experience its different cultures.

Apart from drinking Heineken in Holland, Italy is among Mayes' most valued memories from her past tours in Europe.

"Italy is fantastic—the food, the wine, the people, the language. I think it's pretty amazing to go over there and take in the beauty [...] I couldn't believe I was in Italy on tour the whole time, and I will probably feel the same way in April just because it's so beautiful. My favourite thing about going to Europe is getting to explore these places that I never thought in my life I would see, let alone play."

While being on tour in all these different places, Mayes also takes advantage of the huge variety of local beers that they have to offer, which she also incorporates into her shows and reinforces just how down-to-earth this woman of the blues really is.

"Having a cold beer in your hand and having a cigarette right before you get on stage relaxes me. It just unwinds me."



featuredalbum

Romi Mayes
Achin' in Yer Bones
Factor Recordings

STEFFI ROSSKOPF
Arts & Entertainment Staff

To stand out in the midst of a wealth of already established and legendary artists is a very difficult task to achieve in the 21st century. This is especially true for the often stigmatized, stereotyped country and blues genres. Romi Mayes' new album *Achin' In Yer Bones* features both, but with Mayes very own personal touch. The music on this album seems very simple, but that's the beauty of it.

Each song reveals a little bit of Mayes herself and her experiences on the road or are the product of a midnight session with well-known producer Gurf Morlix. She directly communicates this humbleness to the listener with a short introductory sentence to each of her songs in the cover booklet of the album, which gives the listener some context to how the gears turn in her head.

For example, "Mercy on Me," a co-written tune with Morlix, was written "over a bottle of Jack Daniels late one night in Austin" while being on tour. The title song talks about a time when Mayes was a teenager, hitchhiking through Canada and needing a ride home on the Greyhound bus.

By placing this tune at the beginning, Mayes sets the soothing and sweet mood of the entire album. In the midst of the soft-sounding, relaxing, and thoughtful ballads like "I Won't Cry," "Slow Down," or "Hard Road," both "The Marks" and "If the Lord Don't Love You" stand out as faster, rockier, and more aggressive. The latter's title reflects a line that Mayes would always tell her friends when she was younger and has always wanted to incorporate into a "loose and swampy Rolling Stones-like blues tune." Characterized by its rough sounding guitar all throughout in combination with Mayes rocky voice, it undoubtedly channels Mick and the gang.

Mayes manages to stand out by putting herself into every one of her songs of this album, either through lyrics reflecting her own road-weary experiences or the craftsmanship of her voice fused with her mastery of the guitar.



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Augustana	1	1
Business	2	3
Education	3	4
Engineering	4	5
Law	1	1
Medicine & Dentistry	1	1
Native Studies	1	1
Nursing	1	1
Open Studies	1	0
Physical Education & Recreation	1	1
Pharmacy	1	1
Faculté Saint-Jean	1	1
Science	6	9

CANADA WEST RESULTS

FRIDAY, 6 MARCH

PANDAS **7**

UBC THUNDERBIRDS **0**

First Period
1. Alberta, Miller (Pratt) 11:59
2. Alberta, Borbely (Tulloch) 12:40
3. Alberta, Miller (Podloski, Wiebe) 13:33
4. Alberta, Copeland (Ramsay) 16:13 (PP)
5. Alberta, Pratt (Unassisted) 18:19 (PP)

Second Period
6. Alberta, Podloski (Copeland) 09:36 (PP)
7. Alberta, Newton (Copeland) 13:25 (PP)

Third Period
No Scoring.

UBC Thunderbirds	0	0	0	—	0
Alberta Pandas	5	2	0	—	7

Goal— Pandas: Dana Vinge (W); Thunderbirds: Melinda Choy (L)
Attendance—333

SATURDAY, 7 MARCH

PANDAS **4**

UBC THUNDERBIRDS **0**

First Period
1. Alberta, Miller (Podloski) 04:03

Second Period
2. Alberta, Miller (Cabana, Podloski) 05:22

Third Period
3. Alberta, Cabana (Podloski) 02:00
4. Alberta, Copeland (Podloski, Boras) 18:56

UBC Thunderbirds	0	0	0	—	0
Alberta Pandas	1	1	2	—	4

Goal— Pandas: Dana Vinge (W); Thunderbirds: Melinda Choy (L)
Attendance—244

Other Canada West Scores

(2) Manitoba vs (3) Saskatchewan (Manitoba wins series 2-0)

Game 1: Manitoba 2, Saskatchewan 0

Game 2: Manitoba 4, Saskatchewan 0



PETE YEE

FORGET ROY, GIVE ME CHOY Panda Katie Borbely (6) shoots the puck towards UBC goalie Melinda Choy, who made 81 combined saves this weekend

Thunderbirds shoot blanks as Pandas advance to finals

NICK FROST
Sports Editor

For the sixth and seventh times since the beginning of the 2008/09 Canada West regular season, the Pandas hockey team defeated the UBC Thunderbirds by way of shutouts, earning a 7–0 win on Friday night and a 4–0 victory on Saturday to advance to next weekend's conference final at Clare Drake Arena.

Having not played since handing the Regina Cougars a heartbreaking 9–1 defeat on Valentine's Day to end the regular season, Alberta's women were looking to burst out of the gate and establish a quick start against their west coast adversaries. One issue that's been raised by head coach Howie Draper all season long is his team's inconsistency to come out strong in first periods. Friday night's start, however, made the bench boss' concerns seem unfounded as his team notched five goals in the opening frame.

"We've really improved at that over the course of the season," Draper explained. "I felt that it wasn't as much of a concern in the second half as it was in the first half. I think it was really a tribute to our leadership—they really took the bull by the horns and they've been leading pregame warm-ups to make sure that the girls are mentally and physically prepared, and it seems to be paying off."

One of the most crucial strategies coming in for the Pandas was to keep UBC standout goaltender Melinda Choy busy and tire her out by peppering her with as many shots as possible. The plan certainly paid off, too, as Alberta outshot the Thunderbirds 53–8 on Friday night, and a combined 92–17 over the two-game set.

> **"I think it was really a tribute to our leadership—they really took the bull by the horns and they've been leading pregame warm-ups to make sure that the girls are mentally and physically prepared, and it seems to be paying off."**
>
> **HOWIE DRAPER**
> PANDAS HOCKEY HEAD COACH

"It's important against this team that we score early and get pucks to the net," Draper said. "We got a lot of pucks to the net and Choy was playing outstanding, particularly at the start of the game. Fortunately, one went in for us about midway through the period and that's an important goal against this team—the longer they're in it, the tougher they are to play against."

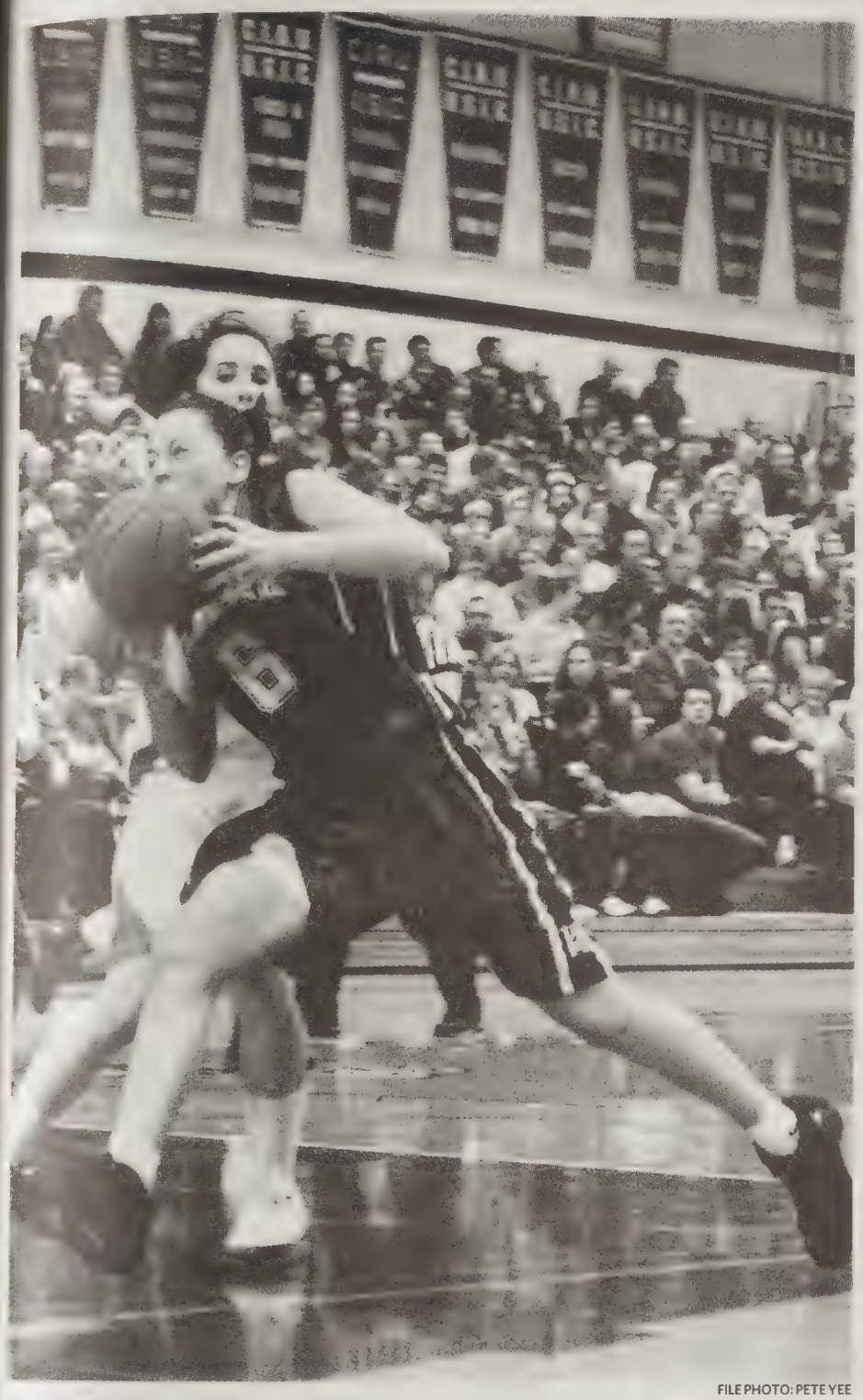
But Friday night wasn't without adversity as Pandas forward Sarah Hilworth was hit during the second period, sending her right leg awkwardly into the boards. Hilworth was immediately taken to hospital after the game with what Draper called a "lower-body injury."

Saturday night's affair didn't prove as easy for the Pandas. While the team is content with pulling out the win, they know that they'll have to come out with much more ferocity next weekend when they face off against the second-ranked Manitoba Bisons, who split their season series with the Pandas.

"We didn't play our best hockey—we know that," Pandas forward Miranda Miller said on Saturday.

Despite picking up the victory and clinching the best-of-three, Alberta faced a much stronger defensive challenge from UBC and showed the signs of rust that might come from having not played or practiced regularly in three weeks. According to Miller—who came up with back-to-back two goal efforts, including the game winner on both occasions—the layoff did manage to catch up to the team and they were, indeed, feeling some effects.

"I think it did have a little bit of an effect," Miller noted. "With five girls gone, we didn't get any real line drills in or any sort of conditioning, and I think you could kind of tell a couple times in the game where we were trying to do too much."



FILE PHOTO: PETE YEE

ROOKIE **LEADERSHIP** Nicole Clarke (6) led the Pandas with 16 points in Sunday's third-place match.

Hoop Pandas finish third

Despite the disappointment of not bringing the Bronze Baby home, Alberta happy to come away with medal

JORDAN HARTSHORN

REGINA (CUP)—Bronze is the colour of unfulfilled expectations in the eyes of the University of Alberta Pandas basketball team. While they return to Edmonton from the 2009 women's basketball championships in Regina having salvaged a third-place medal, they don't have to like it.

After cruising past the Laval Rouge et Or 86–68 in the quarter-finals, the Pandas slipped 78–62 against the top-seeded and eventual champion Simon Fraser Clan in the semi-finals, and had to settle for a third place game against the third-ranked Windsor Lancers in a dramatic 64–62 affair—a game that Alberta came into completely deflated.

"It took me almost until tipoff to be finally ready to play again," fifth-year point guard Ashley Wigg said of the third-place match. "It's tough when you have your whole season set out for one main goal, once it's been taken away from you; to battle and compete because it feels like there is not much left."

Against Simon Fraser, the Pandas never really found an opportunity to get into rhythm. The Clan rode some early hot shooting, heading to the locker room up 52–31 at the half, and then coasted to their place in the championship final.

The Pandas, a team known for resiliency and toughness, went out with barely a whimper.

"It wasn't our game," Wigg said. "If we had gone out and battled hard and played like we can and lost, then that's a different story. We just weren't us."

Scrapping it out for the bronze, the Lancers and the Pandas never gave each other an inch. The lead changed hands frequently, while the game's largest advantage belonged to Alberta by a mere eight points. With 1:19 remaining in the fourth, Panda Kristin Jarock notched a jumper which made the score 60–59 and gave them a lead which they wouldn't relinquish.

"It took a lot for them to want to come out and play hard in the third-place game," head coach Scott Edwards said. "I'm just really proud of the kids in finding a way to come back in an afternoon game and play with enough emotion and enough toughness to get a win for us."

Rookie Nicole Clarke emerged on the national scene in a meaningful way, finishing fourth in the tournament in scoring with 15 points per game. Clarke led the Pandas in scoring with 16 points to help clinch the bronze.

"She's an outstanding player who's played beyond her freshman status," Edwards added.

Clarke will lead a strong Pandas contingent for next season that includes Anneka Bakker, who also made a strong showing in Regina. Undoubtedly, though, the graduation of Wigg and Jarock will be felt on the team. Wigg led the team in both scoring and assists, while Jarock was third in scoring and led the team in rebounds.

"It's important to finish on a win, and for the girls coming back next year. Especially, it's important that they have this confidence," Wigg said.

Simon Fraser captured the national title with a 68–62 win over the host Regina Cougars in Sunday's final. At Thursday's awards banquet, no Panadas received awards or were named to the First and Second All-Canadian teams. Victoria's Kayla Dykstra won the Nan Copp award as the nation's Most Valuable Player throughout the regular season.





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Shifting from CIS to the NCAA unnecessary move for SFU Clan

MATTHEW BLACK

The Peak

BURNABY (CUP)—If the Canadian sporting community were prone to quoting Shakespeare, one could forgive it for crying out "*et tu Brute?*" after the front-page story broke highlighting Simon Fraser University's interest in forgoing further membership in the CIS in favour of the American-based NCAA.

At the heart of this exodus of sporting culture in Canada lies money—more specifically, the potential revenue schools might accrue by being associated, however fleetingly, with the marketing force that is the NCAA.

Canadian schools can certainly be excused for lusting after a piece of the NCAA pie, which annually turns collegiate basketball and football games into nation-stopping, multi-million dollar showcase events south of the border.

Certainly, other reasons exist for such a potential move. Among them, the NCAA's more financially permissive funding rules that allow schools to offer full scholarships that pay not only tuition, but also living expenses for potential student-athletes.

Given how Canadian schools are permitted only to offer recruits a tuition waiver under CIS regulations, it's not hard to see the logic that under the NCAA, SFU could not only attract better athletic talent from abroad, but also keep local talent in province and away from the US.

Of course, the merits of offering such scholarships are highly debatable. Two days after the *Peak* ran the initial story about SFU considering its move to the NCAA, the school staged an hour-long rally in protest of government funding cuts that, in the view of many, are detrimentally affecting the quality of education.

Given the current financial climate both at this school and worldwide, it's fair to ask where all of this money for full-ride scholarships will come from and if it should be spent on sports rather than education.

Although NCAA membership might attract more funding, exactly how much more is unclear. Certainly, this wouldn't be the glamourous NCAA we see on TV come March Madness or New Year's Day.

Rather, SFU would enter the NCAA's Division II, where they would geographically best fit in with the mighty Great Northwest Athletic Conference: a nine-member grouping with two schools located in Alaska, two schools with enrollments of under 1800, and only four schools that play varsity football.

While saving on travel has been raised as an argument in favour of NCAA membership, one wonders if the road trip to Fairbanks would be any cheaper than a journey to Winnipeg.

Finances aside, while an NCAA scholarship program would certainly attract a different class of athlete, this influx of talent might hurt as much as it would help.

While full-ride scholarships would attract both local and international talent, the possibility exists that local non-scholarship athletes would see their playing time suffer at the hands of a fully funded foreigner.

The consequences of this arrangement are seen in the position stacking common in the Canadian Football League, where American athletes dominate the high-profile "skill" positions to the widespread [illegible] Canadian talent.

It's also fair to ask, at [illegible] tion to football, that have [illegible] National Association of [illegible] Athletics (an American [illegible] giate sports organization of [illegible] consequence than the NC[illegible] to join the CIS, what has [illegible] less than seven years to [illegible] switch back to an Amer[illegible] organization?

The support for this move among athletes, coaches, and school administrators appears to be mixed [illegible] affect certain sports more [illegible] It's also unknown how alu[illegible] group in the important realm [illegible] raising, would feel about the [illegible]

Ultimately, SFU must de[illegible] a Canadian school or not. [illegible] to imagine anything more [illegible] for the state of Canadian sports than moving back to American fo[illegible] and away from our domestic ga[illegible] that we've always been told [illegible] preserving as a uniquely [illegible] sporting phenomenon.

Moving to the NCAA would certainly further hamper the visibility of the program, which can only have suffered after years of toiling in national anonymity while in the NAIA.

Aside from the University of British Columbia, other Canadian schools, who are in-part dependent on SFU's participation and dues to the CIS for survival, are also unlikely to be enthusiastic about any potential depar[illegible]re.

Much ambiguity still exists surrounding the details and [illegible]ability of moving to the NCAA, but SFU would do well to take a closer look at its decision before university sports in Canada follows the trail south already traversed by far too many Canadian sports institutions.



FILE PHOTO: PETE YEE

IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR AGAIN This weekend at Clare Drake Arena, the Golden Bears hockey team will open up their road to the University Cup against the Regina Cougars. Check out Thursday's issue of the *Gateway* for a full preview.



KELSEY TANASIUK

TV poker too prevalent in our sports programming



NICK FROST

Sports Commentary

I can't escape the monster that is professional poker. For nearly five years—since the advent of this money-wasting pastime into popular culture and legitimate sports circles—I've sat on my hands and not said anything, while online poker became an Internet phenomenon among high school and college students, and televised Texas Hold 'Em became the third most-watched "sport" in the United States. Seemingly every time I've found myself in the same room as a television over these years, I've been bombarded with so much poker-related tripe emanating from the screen that it all seems so mind-numbingly incessant.

I'm bored at 2pm on a Saturday afternoon and looking for a sports fix on one of the major Canadian sporting networks—poker appears on all three channels. I'm watching an Oilers game with my friends at a sports bar—a commercial for Full Tilt Poker comes on. I'm waiting for the late-night edition of Sportscentre to start so I can catch up on the day's sporting events—the Aussie Millions tournament appears instead, stymieing my efforts.

At first, I didn't mind the few poker programs that networks would put on at 3am when no one is watching TV—now, it's painfully clear that poker has way too much of a presence on sports networks.

First of all, let's just get this out of the way for those who haven't clued in at any point since 2003: poker is *not* a sport.

They can write about it in the Toronto Sun's sports section; they can broadcast it on ESPN, TSN, Rogers Sportsnet, The Score, *et al*; but, I repeat: poker is *not* a sport.

I can understand why one might think otherwise—after all, a large part of sports involves the competitive nature of its athletes and the use of strategy to outwit opponents. For anyone who's ever played poker with friends (and lost, like I frequently do when money's on the line) it's typical to observe the other players' tells to try and deduce their hand, only to get riled up and hurl chips across the table when the river card comes up, screwing you and awarding your friend with a dumb-luck win.

That said, unlike basketball, football, hockey, volleyball—basically, anything that involves breaking a sweat at the very least—there is zero physicality involved with poker, which takes it out of contention for the sports genre. In fact, the most physical activity one can get out of poker is taking two stacks of chips and folding them into each other while deciding whether or not to fold or raise a hand. And, as neat of a trick as that might be, it doesn't even begin to scratch the surface.

Rather, poker is a game, like Roulette, or Rummoli, or Clue. And when was the last time you saw "Clue After Dark" on Sportsnet at 8pm on a Sunday night? That's right—you never have. If that ever happened, sports fans like myself would probably revolt.

On top of all that, it actually hurts my brain to think that there are enough people out there who would enjoy watching grown men playing cards for money to justify showing as much poker as the networks do.

Because of the consistent amount of poker-related programming going on between the Canadian sporting networks at various points during the day, many other events that should otherwise get coverage don't—one such case, in particular, is CIS sports. For example, rather than broadcasting in on TSN, Sportsnet, or The Score—all known for their infrequent, hit-or-miss coverage of Canada's varsity scene—the national men's volleyball final was relegated to Shaw TV, forcing it to reach a much smaller audience than what could've been had with one of the big three, and subjecting people who couldn't watch it on television to have to watch it on the infrequently reliable web feed.

Similarly, instead of cramming poker down the collective throat of the nation, there are many other alternate options—ones that even involve sports—that could be presented to the viewer to not create so much frustration amongst viewers. Airing events that attract niche audiences, but don't get nearly enough coverage—like Canadian varsity sports, as well as extreme sports, European league sports, etc—as well as repeats of important sporting events that people may have missed, gives the viewer more attractive options and allows for a much more diverse programming schedule. Oh yeah, and it would steer clear of inadvertantly frustrating the shit out of me.

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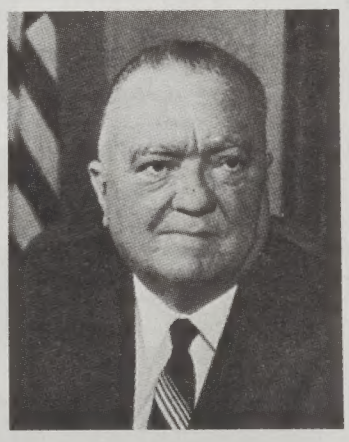
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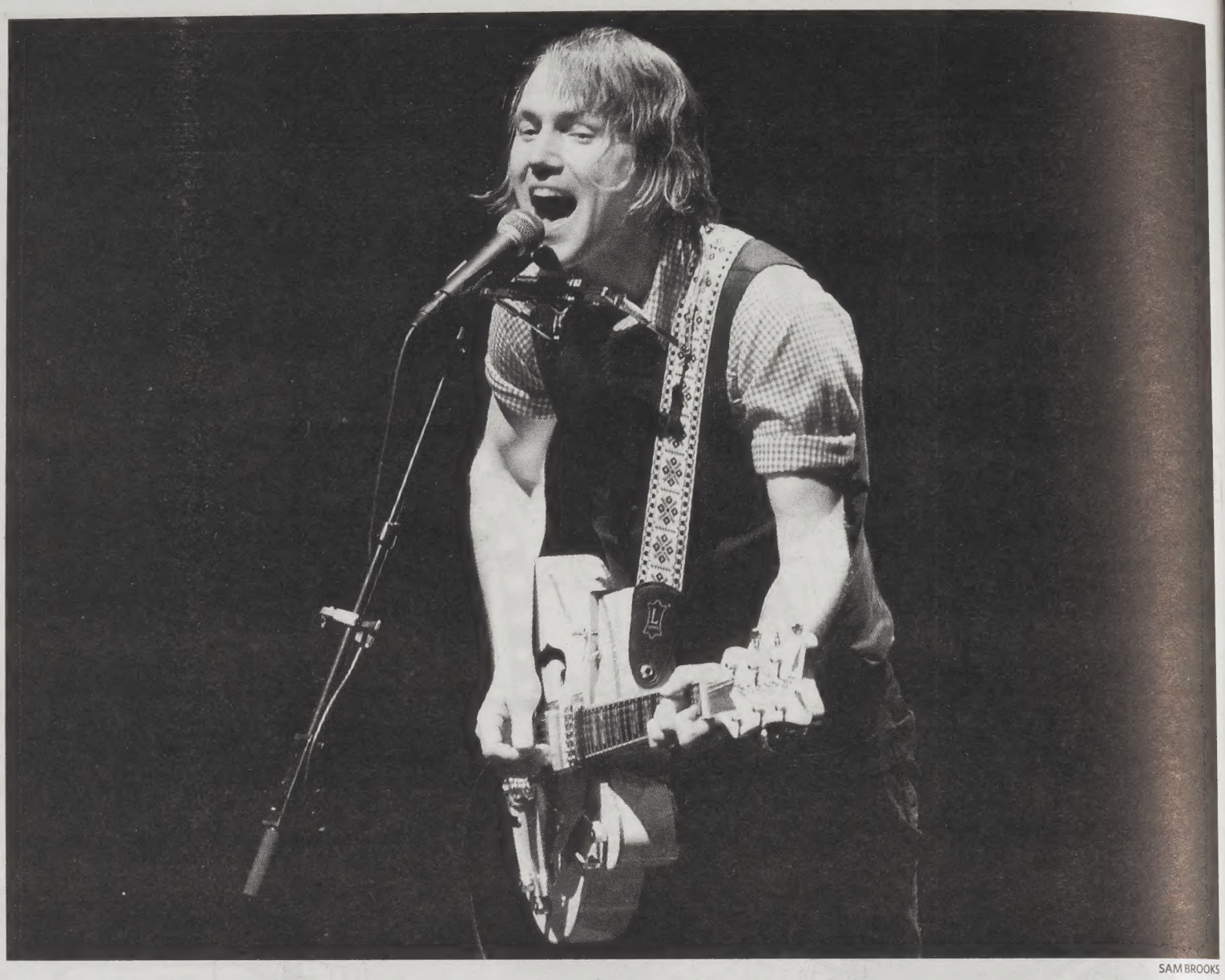
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AND FINALLY

Best discovery I've ever made (at least, in the past week or so): you can change the default LCD text on our laser printer. I've been amusing myself by putting in such witticisms as "Ready (to kill trees)," "Error: Check Bacon Tray," "Insert Coin to Continue," and my personal favourite, "Please add water to tray 2."

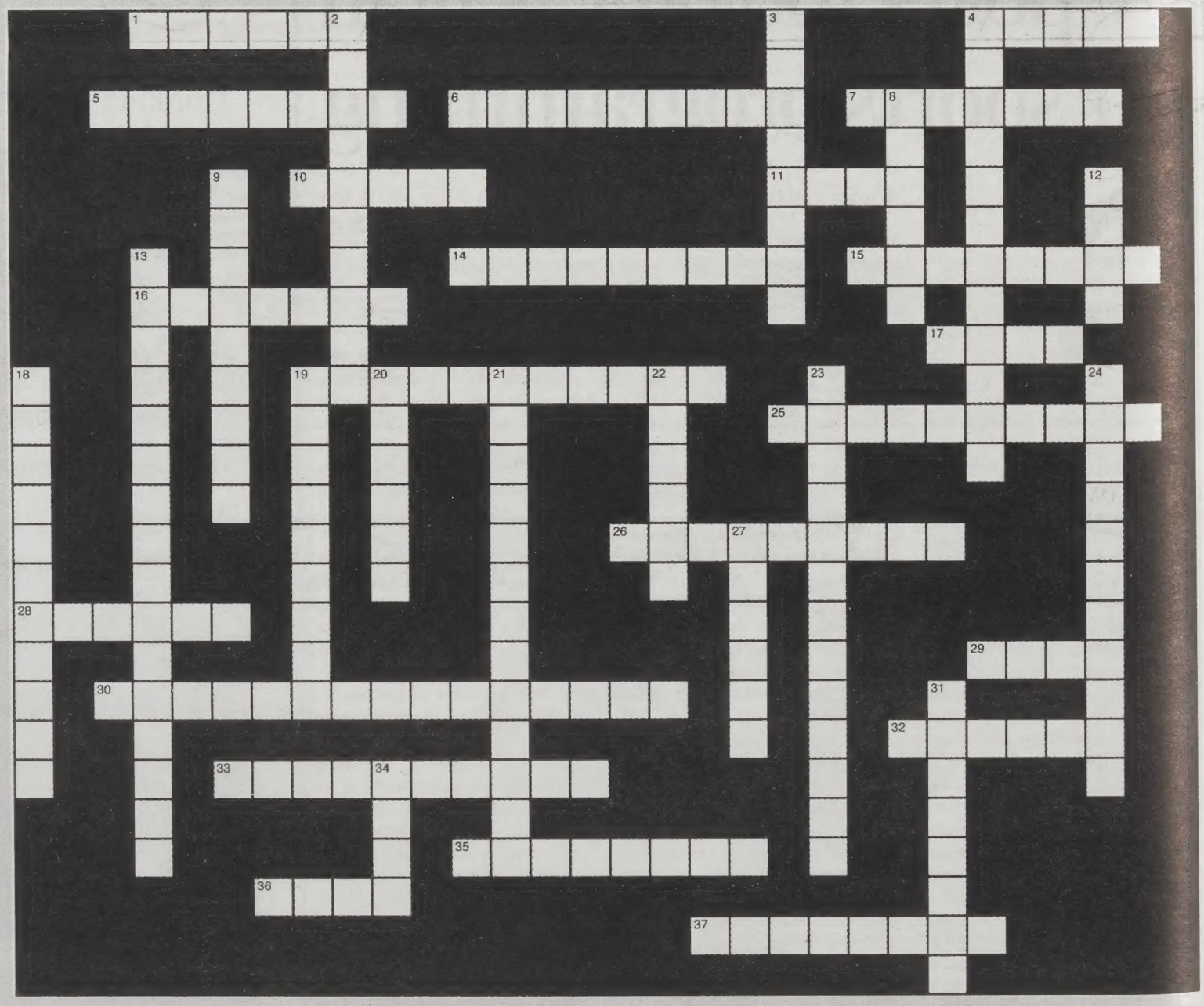


SAM BROOKS

crossword

Crosswords are a Man's Best Friend

The Crossword runs semi-regularly with the answer available at www.thegatewayonline.ca



Across

1. Chip and Dale's female rescue ranger.
4. The late first feline.
5. Santa's Little Helper's family.
6. *Tailspin* pilot.
7. A most famous movie dolphin.
10. A wacky black cat with a wacky yellow bag.
11. Milo's pug partner.
14. Darkwing Duck's catchphrase, "Let's get _____!
15. What's The Story, _____?
16. Four great green ninja guys.
17. A talking pig.
19. The Autobiography of a Horse.
25. A tiny brontosaurus from a land before time.
26. The most lovely swine.
28. Ross's Monkey Friend.
29. Garfeild's punching bag.
30. A tale of a boy and his stuffed toy.
32. The lucky dragon from *The Neverending Story.*
33. A helpful spider's web.
35. A Canadian TV show about a young turtle.
36. The great university bear of Alberta
37. Polly's big red pal

Down

2. Paris Hilton's lost, then found pup.
3. Thoroughbred of Sin.
4. Snoopy's plane.
8. What's that _____? Jimmy fell down the well?
9. Mama, Papa, Brother and Sister Bears.
12. Simba just can't wait to be ___.
13. The most violent game of cat and mouse.
18. Steamboat Willy
19. A troublesome St Berndard.
20. A basketball-playing golden retriever.
21. Who wrote *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*?
22. Who shot Old Yeller?
23. A storybook bear named after a Canadian bear.
24. Not Ben and Jerry but ...
27. Chance, Sassy and _____ are Homeward Bound.
31. Arthur is an _____.
34. Free Willy.

POP & ICE CREAM by Lance and Evan Mudryk



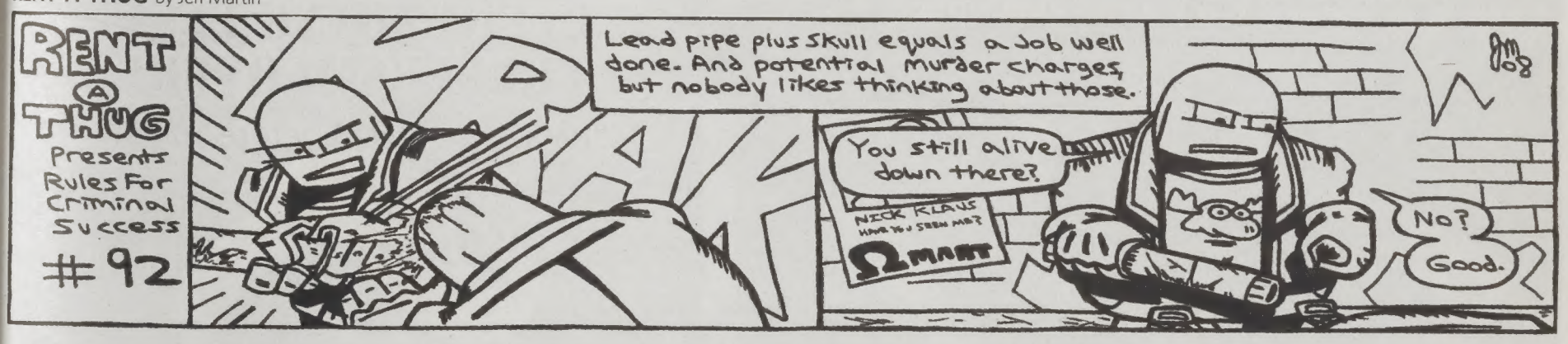
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